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NO. 7587 THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 16-17, 1989 SHABAN 9-10, 1409 AH 24 PAGES 150 FILL

18 Kuwaitis among 33 coup plotters

Trial date will be set soon

KUWAIT, March 15, (KUNA): Thirty-three people, including 18 Kuwaitis, face charges ranging from attempting to topple the government to spying, a spokesman for the state prosecutor said yesterday.

ANNOUNCEMENT
Arab Times has brought out a 7-page (11-17) supplement on the 10th Kuwait International Rally.

Iran-East bloc ties

NICOSIA, March 15, (AP): Hashemi Rafsanjani, Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, said today that the exchange of messages between Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev paved the way for the expansion of Iran's relations with the Eastern bloc.

Iran's official news agency said Rafsanjani made the remark during a meeting in Tehran with Milko Balev, chairman of Bulgarian National Assembly's foreign committee.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was granted a rare audience with ailing Khomeini during a visit to Tehran on Feb. 26.

During the audience, Khomeini called for the expansion of ties between Tehran and Moscow, according to the agency.



People inspect cars damaged by Tuesday's shelling in Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

Halt clashes, Lebanese told

Beirut in agony

RIYADH, March 15, (Agencies): The Arab League appealed today for all Lebanese factions to halt "immediately" acts of bombardment in the war-torn country and to avoid any action that could aggravate the situation in Lebanon.

In a statement after an urgent meeting to discuss the latest clashes in and around Beirut, a six-member committee, mediating in Lebanon's constitutional crisis, said the tense situation was affecting efforts by the panel to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

The statement was issued by Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, who chairs the panel that includes the foreign ministers of Jordan, the UAE, Sudan, Tunisia and North Yemen, as well as Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi.

The statement said an immediate halt to the clashes would allow the committee to direct all efforts to resolve the crisis in accordance with the principles laid down by the 22-member Arab League.

These principles, the statement added, would achieve peace and prosperity for the Lebanese people.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara denied today that his country played any role in the Christian-Muslim battles in Lebanon.

"Syria is not a party to the fighting in Lebanon," he said between sessions of an Islamic foreign ministers' meeting in Riyadh.

In Beirut, occasional bursts of machine-gun fire replaced savage shelling by Muslims and Christians today as Lebanon's battered capital lay gripped in fear of all-out war.

A car packed with a small amount of explosives blew up near the West Beirut campus of the American University of Beirut (AUB) and wounded three people, police said.

The blast, yards from a Syrian Army checkpoint, also damaged six parked cars, police said.

No one claimed responsibility for the explosion.

At the AUB Hospital, the moans and screams of the wounded and the cries of bereaved relatives filled wards where nurses tried to cope with the toll from "black Tuesday" — at least 50 dead and 145 wounded.

"For the first time in Lebanon's civil war, there is no one capable of mediating a lasting ceasefire. We're back at square one. We're back to April 13, 1975," said one pro-Syrian Muslim politician, referring to the date Lebanon's civil war started.

The spokesman said some of the accused — 13 of whom are at large may receive the death penalty or be sentenced to life in prison. Two of the defendants have been released on bail, he added.

The suspects are accused of belonging to "illegal groups ... among whose purposes was the promulgation of principles which seek to demolish the basic system (of Kuwait) through illegal means and demolishing of the social and economic fabric of the country by force."

Ideologies

The groups also called publicly and through writings, sketches and photos for the toppling of the regime as well as for destructive ideologies while defaming the Amir.

Some of the suspects were also accused of divulging secrets of defence, embezzling public money and collusion to commit crimes including the assassination of public figures and their children in Kuwait.

The spokesman said the head of the State Security Court will soon set a trial date.

The accused are:

1. Sami Jaber Abbas Al Badri, 43 alias Abu Al Hasan, Iraqi, former librarian at the Kuwaiti University Medical Library, presently living in Iran.
2. Abdullah Issa Ahmad Fayrouz, 25, Kuwaiti, an engineer at the Ministry of Communications, in jail.
3. Abdullah Ibrahim Hussain, 25 alias Abdullah Dashti, Kuwaiti, presently living in Iran.
4. Muhsen Al Faqih, 35 alias Abu Zaher, Iraqi, presently living in Iran.
5. Hisham Abdul Razzaq Mubidin, 27 alias Mohamed Ali Mubidin, Iraqi, director at the Kuwait Cleaning Co., in jail.
6. Hamed Hussain Ali Sabti, 36, Kuwaiti, teacher at the Ministry of Education, in jail.
7. Khaled Abdul Karim Taha, 29, Iraqi, engineer, presently living in Iran.
8. Mohammed Abdul Amir Al Ali, 33, Lebanese, computer engineer at a company in Sharq, in jail.
9. Tareq Abdul Jalil Mahmoudi, 26, Iranian, former employee at a private company in Kuwait, presently living in Iran.
10. Abdul Zahra Hwaii Mahmoudi, 26, Iranian, former employee at a private company in Kuwait, presently living in Iran.

Religious fervour

Return of Quran greeted with joy

TASHKENT, USSR, March 15, (Agencies): With tears and cries of "God is Great," several thousand Muslims greeted the return yesterday of a 7th century Quran in a display of religious fervour seldom seen in the officially atheist Soviet Union.

Crowds pressed in on a cordon of police and engulfed a half-dozen believers who carried the holy book on their shoulders 150 yards (metres) from a religious congress to the Higher Islamic Institute in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan.

One young man leapt from a low porch toward the two-foot-square (18-metre-square) book as it was carried through the courtyard below. He touched his hands to his face in a sign of reverence before the crowd swallowed him up.

Cries of "God is Great" echoed along the book's path into the courtyard of the institute, and believers wiped tears from their eyes as they watched the Quran pass.

The Uzbekistan government turned the Quran of Caliph Osman over to Muslim authorities at the opening of a two-day congress that elected a new mufti, or religious leader, for predominantly Muslim Soviet Central Asia and Kazakhstan.

Iran denies it has violated ceasefire

NICOSIA, March 15, (AP): Iran has again denied Iraqi charges that Iranian troops violated the Gulf war ceasefire along the Iran-Iraq border, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported today.

The agency, quoted an unnamed source at Iran's armed forces command headquarters as saying the ceasefire was violated by Iraqi forces late on Monday night when they shelled three Iranian cities across the southern border.

The source said that Iraqi forces opened fire on the city of Shalameh at 17:30 GMT, and then extended the shelling to the port of Khorramshahr at 22:00 GMT, IRNA reported.

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○ کویت میں ۳۳ ملوٹروں کے خلاف مقدمہ چلانے کا فیصلہ
○ جلال آباد میں جہادین کو ملک بھیج دی گئی
○ شامی فوجوں اور عیسائی فورسز میں جنگ کا خطرہ
○ بھارتی پارلیمنٹ میں ہنگامہ آرائی
○ طالبان مصری پرچم لہرا دیا گیا
○ پاکستان کی سیاسی صورت حال پر اشراف شاد کا تجزیہ

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with moderate north-westerly wind.

State of sea: moderate

High water: 8.30 am, 5.00 pm

Low water: 12.00 am

Sunrise: 5.57 am

Sunset: 5.57 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 29°C 84°F

Ahmed: 27°C 81°F

Falaka: 27°C 81°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 16°C 61°F

Ahmed: 17°C 63°F

Falaka: 17°C 63°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 28°C 79°F

Ahmed: 24°C 75°F

Falaka: 24°C 75°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 84 per cent

Ahmed: 98 per cent

Falaka: 95 per cent

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An act of terror

Iratxu Mugeta, 20, a Basque university student appeared at a news conference in Bilbao, Spain, after she was attacked on Monday by two men and a woman who beat her and carved the letters GAL into her face. GAL stand for Anti-Terrorist Liberation Group, an organisation which claimed to have killed 23 Basques living in France to avenge attacks by the Basque separatist group ETA. Mugeta was also attacked in Nov 1988 by people who carved GAL into her hand. (Reuters wirephoto)

Israeli - PLO talks needed

WASHINGTON, March 15, (Agencies): US Secretary of State James Baker, hinting at a shift in US policy in the Middle East, says "meaningful" negotiations on the Palestinian problem might require Israel to talk to the PLO.

But in another development, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens accused the PLO of committing the "worst atrocities we've ever seen since World War II." The Israeli official also said the US dialogue with Yasser Arafat's organisation had strengthened the PLO's hand.

Baker testified before a House of Representatives appropriations sub-committee, while Arens, who is on a three-day visit to Washington, held a news conference.

Baker said US policy seeks to promote direct negotiations between Israel and Palestinian Arabs that "can be meaningful."

"Now if you can't have direct negotiations that do not involve negotiations with the PLO, I suppose we would then have to see negotiations between Israelis and representatives of the PLO," Baker said.

He added: "It may be that you can have meaningful negotiations that do not involve the PLO, it may be that you can't. Our policy is simply that we think there need to be direct negotiations which are meaningful between Israelis and Palestinians."

Baker has recently put increasing emphasis on a need for Israeli talks with Palestinians.

Arens declined to comment on Baker's statement regarding the prospect of Israeli-PLO talks, saying he had not heard it directly.

Arens ruled out face-to-face contacts with the PLO.

He told the Washington Institute on Middle East Affairs: "The PLO wants to impose itself as a negotiating partner. That would constitute a form of recognition for the Palestinian organisation."

"My own view is if we gave that recognition (to the PLO), it would be a one-way street," he added. "It would be the beginning of the end for Jordan and the present ruler of Jordan (King Hussein). It would be the beginning, or rather the continuation, of the subversion of Israel."

Arens insisted the proper negotiating partner for Israel would be the government of Jordan or prominent Palestinians in the occupied territories.

(Continued on Page 4)

Ban Rushdie book: Sabah

Call to give OIC seat to mujahadeen

RIYADH, March 15, (Agencies): Kuwait has urged Islamic states to boycott the publishers of Salman Rushdie's novel The Satanic Verses, widely condemned in the Muslim world as blasphemous to Islam.

Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed told an Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers' meeting that all Islamic states should ban the book, work to prevent its printing and distribution world-wide and boycott its publishers, Viking Penguin Books.

"The oppressive distortion campaign against Islam represented in a book that distorts and slanders the truth of our faith ... calls for a decisive position," he said yesterday.

Iran has called on the OIC meeting to endorse the order of its spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, for Rushdie's killing, but delegates say a majority of Islamic states prefer milder action.

Insulted

Iranian delegation leader Mohammed Tashkiri angrily complained that Rushdie has "insulted all the Islamic values, the Holy Quran and the wives of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH)."

Tashkiri insisted that the Indian-born British author be judged according to the sharia, which he said requires the death sentence for blasphemy.

"That would be the end of our request," said Tashkiri. "It is impossible for Iran to change its basic position on the issue."

Conference sources said a number of delegates were trying to work out a compromise between Iran and Saudi Arabia on the issue. Saudi Arabia insists he be denounced and given a chance to do penance.

The conference is to listen to Tashkiri explain his country's stance on the Rushdie affair during tomorrow's morning session.

He revealed that 158 members of the Iranian Parliament have teleaxed a request to Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister and chairman of the OIC, Prince Saud Al Faisal, to condemn Rushdie's book.

Prince Saud told reporters that the Rushdie affair had now assumed political rather than cultural aspects.

Power

The sources said it was highly unlikely that any OIC member will support Iran's bid to spill Rushdie's blood. They said that almost all delegations will readily condemn the book as an affront to Muslims and Islam.

Pakistan urged the OIC to help the rebel Afghan government take power in Kabul by giving it Afghanistan's vacant seat.

The seat at the OIC has not been filled since Soviet troops entered in Afghanistan in 1979.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in a speech welcomed formation of the interim government-in-exile and called it a major step towards a settlement of Afghanistan's 10-year-old civil war.

"For these reasons we believe that the OIC should assist a peaceful and expeditious transfer of power by inviting the interim government to occupy the seat of Afghanistan ...," Khan said.

Turkey today accused Bulgaria of escalating oppression against a Muslim minority of predominantly Turkish origin through its policy of forced assimilation.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz said that "there is no improvement whatsoever" in the treatment of Bulgarian Muslims and urged the OIC to intervene with the Balkan nation's communist government for "a timely resolution of this modern-day tragedy."

Kuwait to test fruit from Chile for cyanide

By Diane Diaz
Arab Times staff

IMPORTED fruit from Chile will be tested for cyanide poisoning and other contamination before being distributed to the local market, a Kuwaiti government source said yesterday.

The decision to test Chilean fruit arriving in Kuwait comes in response to reports that the United States found cyanide in two seedless red grapes while checking random samples of fruit from Chile.

The government source, who spoke to the Arab Times on the condition of anonymity, said he learned about the cyanide scare from press reports yesterday morning. He said he passed the information on to various health authorities and the decision was made to start the testing immediately.

The official could not say what would happen to Chilean fruit already on store shelves in this country.

Apples and grapes are the fruits most commonly imported to Kuwait from Chile, he said. Information about other fresh fruit from that country was not made available.

A Chilean diplomat based in Syria told the Arab Times that countries which import Chilean fruit should examine it as a precaution.

Ali Jijal, second secretary of the Chilean embassy in Damascus, said the incident in the US was probably isolated.

Jijal, member of the diplomat mission that covers Kuwait, said he believes chemicals used to ripen fruit could have been misinterpreted as poison.

Agencies add: The discovery of the two cyanide-laced grapes has triggered a massive removal of Chilean fruit from market shelves around the world.

The United States, Canada, Japan, West Germany, Denmark and Hong Kong are among the countries that have pulled Chilean produce out of stores.

Authorities in many of those countries are warning consumers not to eat fruit already purchased unless they are certain that it did not come from Chile.

In Brussels, the European Economic Community put all member nations on alert. Officials in France and the Netherlands said they were conducting tests on Chilean fruit.

The cyanide discovery came two weeks after a man phoned the US embassy in Santiago saying fruit for export would be poisoned. That call and a second one were viewed as probable hoaxes, but the US intensified inspections of Chilean fruits as a precaution.

(Continued on Page 3)

Three Filipino rebels killed

SAN FERNANDO, Philippines, March 15, (AP): Government troops killed three rebels yesterday, and the military filed subversion charges against 18 left-wing activists arrested in a raid on a communist propaganda centre, officials said.

One civil militiaman and three members of the Marxist splinter group Army of National Liberation were killed in the clash near Baliwag, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Manila, said the Philippines constabulary.

Meanwhile, the military said 10 men and eight women were charged with subversion after they were arrested on Monday night in a raid on a rebel propaganda centre near this town in Pampanga province north of Manila.

Dhawan 'not involved' in Indira murder

NEW DELHI, March 15, (Reuters): Most opposition members of India's lower house of Parliament were suspended today during an uproar over suggestions that a senior official was involved in the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

The Speaker of the House took the action to curb wild scenes in Parliament following Home (interior) Minister Buta Singh's defence of R.K. Dhawan, the official at the centre of the row.

The opposition members exploded in anger when Singh declared that Dhawan was not involved in any crime or conspiracy over the 1984 assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Indian news agencies said.

They went into a frenzy when Singh rejected their demands for the release of a judicial report into the killing and the Speaker suspended most opposition members for the rest of the week.

The Indian Express newspaper yesterday quoted what it said were secret documents from a judicial inquiry into the Indira Gandhi killing that pointed "a needle of suspicion" at Dhawan, her long time secretary.

It said Dhawan suddenly changed Indira's schedule on the day she was killed by two Sikh bodyguards as she walked through the garden of her home and that he was responsible for the killers' assignment.

AIDS builds resistance to AZT

SAN DIEGO, California, March 15. (AP): AIDS patients treated with AZT, the only approved anti-AIDS drug, appear to develop drug-resistant strains of the AIDS virus over time, researchers said.

While AIDS patients were advised to continue taking AZT, researchers said the finding suggests that AIDS, like cancer and tuberculosis, may be treated most effectively with a

combination of drugs.

"Many of us who have had experience with chemotherapy expected that this was going to happen," said Dr Douglas Richman of the University of California at San Diego.

"I am convinced that AZT will be one of the lynchpins of combination (AIDS) chemotherapy for a long period of time. What we need is to get some more drugs to add to it," said

Richman.

Burroughs Wellcome Co., the maker of AZT or zidovudine, reported the finding in letters sent to doctors in 26 countries.

Company officials said they consulted with outside experts about the impact of its findings and concluded that there is no reason for AIDS patients to halt AZT treatment.

US halts imports of assault rifles

WASHINGTON, March 15. (Reuters): The United States has suspended imports of more than 110,000 rapid-fire semi-automatic assault weapons, increasingly used by drug dealers and other criminals, amid a public clamour over US violent crime.

The action comes less than two months after an emotionally disturbed man used a Chinese-made AK-47 rifle to spray bullets at children playing in a schoolyard in Stockton, California. Five were killed while 29 others and a teacher were wounded.

The indefinite suspension, announced last night by US drug policy chief William Bennett, applies to all semiautomatic assault rifles — such as AK-47s and Uzi carbines — pending a review to determine whether they are suitable for "sporting purposes". Automatic versions of the weapons are outlawed.

The action follows mushrooming imports of the powerful weapons. Since 1986, when the government approved the import of 4,000 assault-type weapons, the number has jumped to 40,000 in 1987 and 44,000 last year.

"The immediate effect of this action is to suspend indefinitely the importation of well over 110,000 semiautomatic, assault-type weapons for which import permissions are pending," Bennett said in a statement.

President Bush, a hunter and member of the National Rifle Association (NRA) pro-gun organisation which opposes any gun restrictions, was described as supporting the decision, but was not directly involved in reaching it.

"The President feels the review is necessary and that we should enforce existing laws," said White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater.

Although the White House was trying to shy away from involvement in the decision, it will bear the brunt of the debate — certain to stir emotions on both sides of the issue.

Gun control activists have urged a ban on semiautomatic weapons, citing their use by drug dealers and other criminals, while gun advocates argue that a permanent ban would deny Americans their constitutional right to bear arms.

NRA executive director Wayne Lapiere said the ban would at least "put a stop to the media hysteria" surrounding the weapons and provide an atmosphere for a reasoned discussion. The suspension was imposed by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, whose department oversees firearms control, but had been pushed by Bennett well before he was sworn in on Monday as co-ordinator of federal anti-drug efforts.

Star Wars will violate treaty

'SDI budget is too much'

WASHINGTON, March 15. (UPI): The new director of the "Star Wars" programme has acknowledged that development of the system would violate the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, but said tests over the next two years will comply with the pact.

The US-Soviet treaty allows each nation to have only a limited anti-missile defence — 100 interceptors protecting a particular area. The Soviets have a site ringing Moscow — the United States has none.

At the same time, Democratic and Republican congressmen told Monahan that President Reagan's request for \$5.6 billion in 1990 for Star Wars, formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative or SDI, is too much.

"Chances of achieving this \$5.6 billion level are extremely remote," said chairman Ronald Dellums, Democrat-California. He suggested a figure around \$4 billion, slightly more than Congress appropriated for this year.

Representative William Dickinson, Republican-Alabama, the senior Republican on the panel, agreed and said, "the Reagan budget... is not practical."

Monahan, who replaced retired Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson this year as chief of SDI, said the future of Star Wars is part of President Bush's strategic review, expected to be completed in May, and that the \$5.6 billion budget request "is probably going to be changed."

The general, testifying before Congress for the first time on SDI declined to answer questions about Bush's policy, saying "the President's views will come out as that (strategic) review is completed."

Monahan described the programme's plans for a defence against nuclear missiles and said that "a lot of technical advances have been made" to bolster the military's confidence that "strategic defences will be feasible."

The current plan envisions deploying a phase one system of sensors, tracking satellites and both ground-based and space-based rocket interceptors in which the rockets would locate, track and collide with missiles to destroy them in space. It would be completed by 1999 at an estimated cost of \$69 billion.

Space-based lasers would be added to a phase two system in the 21st century.

Monahan, giving the congressmen a detailed overview of the programme, said the sensors that would detect an enemy missile in launch phase would be the first part of the system to be built and they could come as early as next year.

"Those may or may not be treaty compliant," he said.

"We really need to start work on what we're going to do about the ABM treaty," Air Force Lt. Gen. George Monahan testified Tuesday before the house armed services committee's research and development subcommittee.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Empress dies

ZIZERS, Switzerland, March 15. (AP): Austria's last empress, Zita, who played a historic role in a failed attempt to end fighting in World War I, died early Tuesday. She was 96. She survived by almost 67 years her husband, Charles I, who headed the multilingual Austro-Hungarian dual monarchy until agreeing to "temporarily" relinquish his imperial rights after the Allied victory in World War I.



Empress Zita

Born May 9, 1892, in Pianore Castle, near Viareggio, Italy, the former princess of Bourbon-Parma was related to several European royal families. Her ancestors included France's "Sun King," Louis XIV.

The heart of Zita will be removed in accordance with family tradition and placed separately in a shrine alongside those of other Habsburg rulers. It will be taken to Chur, Switzerland, near her exile home.

Meningitis

WAPATO, Washington, March 15. (AP): Washington's worst outbreak of meningococcal disease in more than a decade has caused four deaths this year and has health officials considering a costly countywide vaccination programme.

Seventeen people have contracted some form of meningococcal disease, including six who got meningitis, inflammation of the membranes that envelop the brain and the spinal cord.

"People are freakin' out about this all over," said Marjory Smith, whose two-year-old daughter was one of about 400 people vaccinated Monday.

Fatal driving

MOUNT PLEASANT, New York, March 15. (AP): An unemployed carpenter was killed when he lost control of his car as he berated the driver of a limousine for cutting him off in traffic, state police said today.

Paul Lasalle, 26, of Pleasantville, died from injuries suffered when his car swerved off the highway Monday while he was yelling at the driver, said trooper Allen Fox.

He said Lasalle's car swerved onto the grass median, slid about 50 metres, flipped and slid another 200 feet (60 metres).

Negligence charge

LONDON, March 15. (AP): A US woman whose husband died in the Lockerbie plane crash released a US document on Tuesday that warned of a "terrorist threat" and called a British government minister negligent for not acting on it.

Elizabeth Delude-Dix, whose Irish husband was killed when a Pan Am jetliner exploded Dec 21 over Scotland, called for an investigation of the US warning. An opposition Labour Party spokesman echoed her demand.

Copter crashes

NAHA, Japan, March 15. (UPI): A US Air Force HH-3 helicopter crashed into the East China Sea off Okinawa while on a training flight last night, killing three of the five crewmembers aboard, military authorities said today.

Two survivors were rescued from the crash site 10 miles south of Ieshima Island by a second HH-3 helicopter taking part in the exercise.

A spokesman for US forces Japan, said the bodies of two of the crew members were recovered this morning by rescue personnel from Kadena Air Force base on Okinawa. The body of the third victim was yet to be found, he said.

Comedian robbed

WEST HOLLYWOOD, California, March 15. (UPI): Comedian Don Rickles and his wife were robbed at gunpoint of their 1988 Jaguar last night as the couple parked the luxury car on a west Hollywood street, sheriff's deputies said.

Neither Rickles, who was a passenger in the car, nor his wife, Barbara, were injured in the holdup, as they parked the car to visit their daughter who lives nearby. Sheriff's Sgt. Arthur Ames said.

Newton jailed

OAKLAND, Calif., March 15. (Reuters): The co-founder of the militant Black Panther group pleaded no contest Tuesday to a charge of misappropriating public funds and was sentenced to six months in jail.

Huey Newton, 47, led the black rights organisation from its founding in 1966 until he disbanded it in 1982. He was accused of misappropriating about \$15,000 in public funds intended for a Panther-operated public school in Oakland, said prosecutor Eugene Kaster.

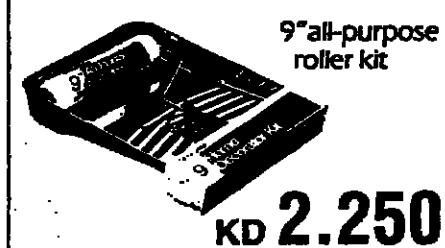
Dog at birth

SURREY, British Columbia, March 15. (AP): The new father was fine, but the dog twice got sick and had to leave the delivery room.

Rick Oakes and his guide dog, Bryor, were there when Whitney Leanne Oakes was born at Grace Hospital in Vancouver.

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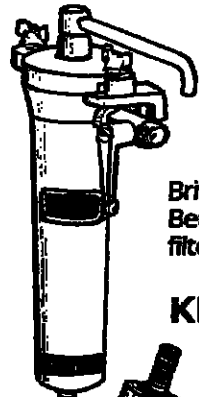


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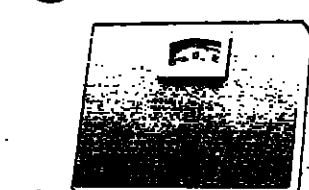
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KD 7.900



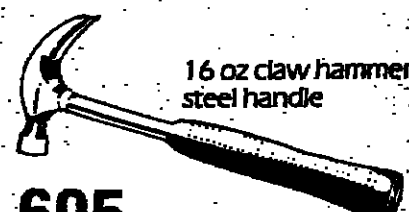
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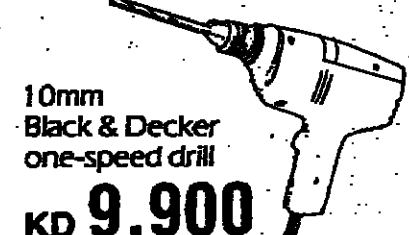
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مركز سلطان

سكرا من لاص

18 Kuwaitis among 33 coup plotters

(Continued from Page 1)

11. Mohammed Hussain Najaf Ashkanani, 28, Kuwaiti, engineer at the Communication Ministry, in jail.
12. Khaled Ahmad Abdul Mohsin Behbehani, 27, Kuwaiti, teacher at Zid Bin Al Hareti Primary School, in jail.
13. Khaled Abdul Razzaq Husain Mohammed Al Baloushi, 27, Kuwaiti, mechanic at Kuwait Airways, in jail.
14. Ismael Ghiloum Mohammed Hasan Jamal, 23, Kuwaiti, presently living in Iran.
15. Yousif Hussain Mohammed Bader, 35, Kuwaiti, in jail.
16. Ridha Bager Ridha Behbehani, 37, Kuwaiti, computer operator at Loans and Credit Bank, in jail.
17. Fadhil Abbas Abdullah Mohammed Jarkhi, 28, Kuwaiti, security and safety officer at Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital, in jail.
18. Mohammed Ahmad Ali Al Khodari, 40, Kuwaiti, supervisor at the Ministry of Education, in jail.
19. Khaled Jaber Nayef Abdullah Al Aubi, 20, Kuwaiti, student at the Technology Institute, in jail.
20. Abbas Hussain Bin Nakhi, 29, Kuwaiti, former police officer, presently living in Iran.
21. Saleh Ali Hamza Ismael Ibrahim, 20, Kuwaiti, senior official at the College of Education, in jail.
22. Sulaiman Mohammed Yousif Karam Jirkhi, 25, Kuwaiti, electrician at the National Petroleum Co., in jail.
23. Ahmed Abdul Ridha Yousif Buabas, 25, Kuwaiti, employee at the Social and Labour Affairs Ministry, in jail.
24. Samir Ali Awadha, 27, Lebanese, engineer at a private company in Qurtoba, in jail.
25. Husam Sadeq Kashoush, 27, Iraqi, engineer at a private company in Shuwaikh, in jail.
26. Salem Hamza Ali Sarkhoh, 25, Kuwaiti, employee at the Ministry of Communications, released on bail.
27. Sami Hassan Hajji, 40, Briton of Lebanese origin, professor at the Science College, Kuwait University, in jail.
28. Hisham Mohammed Abdul Amir Al Hadi, Iraqi, doctor at children's section in Sabah Hospital, absconding.
29. Abdul Latif Mahmoud Al Khafji, Iraqi, teacher, absconding.
30. Murtadha Hussain Farhoud Maibid, 19, stateless student, released on bail.
31. Hassan Faleh Al Sahem Al Naser, Kuwaiti, absconding.
32. Sayed Abbas Rahi, Iraqi, investigator at Kuwait Ministry of Interior, absconding.
33. Ghaleb Hasan Ali Al Shah Bandar, Iraqi, former teacher at the Jafari School in Kuwait, living in Syria.

Kuwait to test ...

(Continued from Page 1)

A similar call was reportedly made to the Japanese embassy in Santiago. The Japanese have since removed Chilean fruit from store shelves and imposed a ban on further fruit imports from Chile.

As of Tuesday, it was not known who poisoned the grapes. The Chilean government blamed the country's Communist Party. The party denied involvement.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gimpel, 82, dies

LOS ANGELES, March 15. (AP): Jakob Gimpel, a pianist whose career began at age eight in his grandfather's theatre in Austria and brought him renown in the concert halls of America and Europe, has died. He was 82. Gimpel died on Sunday at his home in Westwood, said his son, Peter.

Zambian reshuffle

LUSAKA, March 15. (Reuters): Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda replaced Prime Minister Kebby Musokotwane and reshuffled the cabinet today, placing loyal supporters in key posts and strengthening his hold on the government.

Nuclear security

WASHINGTON, March 15. (AP): The nuclear regulatory commission has put US security at risk by allowing newly hired personnel to start work without security clearances and by failing to reinvestigate many veteran workers, a government auditing agency said today.

F-16s collide

MADRID, March 15. (AP): Two F-16 jet fighters from the US Air Force collided in flight yesterday, and one pilot was missing and feared dead, military officials said. The second pilot was reported hospitalised in satisfactory condition.

Botha returns to work as power struggle deepens

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, March 15. (AP): Embattled President P.W. Botha returned to work Wednesday after an eight-week recuperation from a stroke, meeting with his cabinet ministers after they signalled their wish for a new head of state. Reporters were kept at a distance as Botha arrived at his

office shortly before the cabinet meeting began. Botha has yet to comment publicly on a declaration by the National Party parliamentary caucus, including the full cabinet, that it wants the new party leader, Education Minister Frederik de Klerk, to be president.

Botha, 73, resigned as party leader on Feb. 2, two weeks after his stroke, and was succeeded by de Klerk, 52.

The caucus has no formal means of forcing Botha out of the presidency, barring evidence of misconduct or incapacity which could prompt impeachment proceedings.

Thus Botha has the option of resigning in office against the wishes of his party or deciding on his own to step aside after heading the government since 1978.

The power struggle intensified Sunday, when Botha arranged an interview with the state-controlled television network and said he would not call an early election this year.

The next election does not have to be held until March 1990. Botha's statement, made without consulting party leaders, quashed hopes that he would retire in the next few months in conjunction with an early election.

Kremlin expels US diplomat

Tit-for-tat move

MOSCOW, March 15. (AP): The Soviets today accused a US military attache of spying and ordered him expelled, a move that follows Washington's expulsion last week of a Soviet officer allegedly caught trying to buy computer secrets.



100 detained

Policewomen arrest a Tibetan protester in New Delhi for blocking traffic. About 100 demonstrators were arrested during a protest against the recent killing of Tibetans by Chinese security forces in Lhasa. (Reuters wirephoto)

Exchanges at 1987 plenary session revealed

Yeltsin criticised on eve of Soviet polls

MOSCOW, March 15. (AP): In remarks that cost him his job as Communist Party boss of Moscow, Boris Yeltsin told a 1987 party meeting that faith in Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms was waning, according to a transcript released yesterday.

He also said the Soviet leader had become the object of "intolerable glorification."

The published report, issued by the party, also contained more than 40 pages of attacks Gorbachev and other leaders made against Yeltsin. A US political scientist said its release 17 months after the event appeared designed to hurt Yeltsin as he tried a political comeback.

Yeltsin, 58, is campaigning in the March 26 elections that will choose the membership of a new national assembly.

Many of the exchanges at the closed-door plenary meeting of the Communist Party's central committee on Oct. 21, 1987, were echoed at later public meetings, but the transcript revealed new details.

It contained the first confirmation of Western press reports that Yeltsin criticised not only Yegor K. Ligachev, reputedly a conservative force on the ruling Politburo, but also Gorbachev, who brought him into the Kremlin leadership.

Yeltsin, former party boss in the Ural Mountains region of Sverdlovsk, was named Moscow party chief in December 1985 and a non-voting Politburo member two months later. He lost those

posts as a result of his remarks at the October 1987 plenary.

An American political scientist affiliated with Duke University and the independent Brookings Institution, a US institute that sponsors foreign policy research, said in an interview that other motives were at work.

"It's aimed at discrediting Yeltsin," said Jerry Hough, in Moscow to attend a series of seminars with American correspondents. He said the transcript was "damning" for Yeltsin because it portrays him as inept just as he is trying to win a seat in the new Congress of People's Deputies.

At the central committee meeting, Yeltsin said that despite promises of improvements from Gorbachev's reforms, "nothing has changed from the point of view of the style of work of the central committee secretariat and the style of work of comrade Ligachev."

In a separate development, thousands of Russians and other non-Estonians marched in Tallinn yesterday and threatened a general strike if the Communist Party does not stem Estonian nationalism and "creeping counter-revolution," journalists there said.

Maarika Saarna, a reporter with state-owned Estonian radio, put the number of demonstrators in the Estonian capital at 30,000. Police said 50,000 people turned out, and organisers claimed from 80,000 to 100,000 participants, Finnish radio reported from Tallinn.

'Missile destroyed airliner'

ROME, March 15. (Reuters): A judicial report has concluded that an air-to-air missile brought down an Italian airliner that crashed in 1980 killing all 81 people on board, newspapers reported today.

Most Italian papers carried the finding, apparently leaked from a report drawn up by six crash and explosives experts for investigating magistrate Vittorio Bucarelli.

Bucarelli is expected shortly to conclude his judicial probe into the crash, whose cause has remained one of Italy's most disturbing unsolved mysteries for nine years.

The newspaper reports said the experts had been unable to identify the nationality of the fighter plane which launched the missile on the night of June 27, 1980, partly because of mysterious gaps in military radar records.

No confirmation of the reports was immediately available from judicial officials.

Astronauts asked to conserve power

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, March 15. (AP): Discovery's lights were dimmed and some computer screens were darkened today as engineers decided if a hydrogen tank problem was serious enough to bring the five-man crew home a day early.

Mission control engineers made plans today to test heaters in the hydrogen tank, which is part of the shuttle's electrical generating system.

"I think things will work out just fine," flight director Chuck

Shaw predicted. The shuttle astronauts were assured there was no safety concern, but they were asked to conserve electricity. The crew scurried around to turn off lights and computers not in use.

Unless tests showed that the electrical system was sound, Discovery could land on Friday, after four days in orbit rather than the planned five.

The problem tank, filled with supercold liquid hydrogen, is one

of three that supplies Discovery's fuel cells, a type of generator that combines hydrogen and oxygen to make electricity and pure water. If the tank cannot be used, it would cut supplies for the fuel cell by a third. This would not give enough electrical power for five days in space, plus the two days kept in reserve for contingencies.

For their second morning in space, the astronauts were busy even before mission control gave them a formal wake up call.

'Turkey wants to end Cyprus issue'

WASHINGTON, March 15. (AP): US Secretary of State James Baker said that US officials are convinced the Turkish government wants a settlement to end the 15-year division of the island of Cyprus.

Baker told the House appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations that the administration of President Bush continued to support UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in his efforts to reach a settlement between the Greek and Turkish communities on the island.

"We think that the United Nations, and the secretary-general, is particularly well positioned to seek to reach an accommodation between the parties there," Baker said. "And we'd like to support that effort in every way we could."

This subject came up during the course of my visit to Ankara and to Athens when I made my trip to NATO capitals (last month)," he said. It was raised as well, and discussed when the President met Turkish Prime

Minister Turgut Ozal in Tokyo, Baker said.

Baker was appearing before the subcommittee to support the administration's foreign aid bill, which includes aid for Cyprus. Greece and Turkey as in previous years. The subcommittee plays a major role in shaping the foreign aid package.

He was asked whether the administration planned to exert any pressure on Turkey to make it more willing to compromise on Cyprus.

Speedy confirmation predicted for Cheney

WASHINGTON, March 15. (AP): US Defence Secretary-designate Dick Cheney won praise from Republicans and Democrats on the Senate Armed Services Committee with members predicting speedy confirmation of President George Bush's replacement for John Tower.

The panel resumes public hearings Wednesday on the 48-year-old Wyoming congressman's nomination after an early morning, closed session to review Cheney's personal background

and health record.

On the opening day of hearings on Tuesday, Cheney submitted a letter from his cardiologist, Dr Allan M. Ross of the Georgia Washington University Medical Centre, stating that the nominee is "fit to accept any position requiring the highest intellectual behaviour and physical performance."

Cheney has suffered three heart attacks and underwent coronary bypass surgery last year.



Dick Cheney

Mideast state gave money to Contras

WASHINGTON, March 15. (AP): Former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane says Oliver North wrote two paragraphs of one false letter to Congress but that he is uncertain whether North's work was incorporated into another.

McFarlane gave the testimony during North's trial in response to questions from a defence lawyer last afternoon, after a morning session in which McFarlane exploded in anger at prosecutor John Keiser.

The outburst came amid questioning about a letter sent one day before McFarlane, disgraced over the unravelling of the Iran-Con-

tra affair, attempted suicide.

In the Feb. 8, 1987, letter to then-House intelligence committee chairman Lee Hamilton, McFarlane said a foreign national had paid \$5 million to the Nicaraguan Contras rebels. Keiser said McFarlane knew the money was coming from a Mideast government, not an individual, and that the government had given \$32 million, not \$5 million.

"Well, Mr Keiser, if I had sat down in my state of mind the day before I tried to take my life, if I had tried to parse every last dime that went to the Contras ... it probably would have

come out differently," McFarlane retorted.

McFarlane agreed under cross-examination by North lawyer Brendan Sullivan that North wrote only two paragraphs of a Sept. 5, 1985, letter to Hamilton for which North is accused of making false statements to Congress.

McFarlane also testified that he didn't know whether North prepared a draft that became the final version of a Sept. 12, 1985, letter to the US Rep. Michael Barnes. North also is accused of making false statements to Congress in the response to Barnes.

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Mahdi approves peace pact with rebels

KHARTOUM, March 15. (UPI): Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi has agreed to peace with Southern rebels based on an accord freezing the imposition of Islamic sharia laws, a top aide said in remarks published today.

Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mubarak Al Fadel Al Mahdi told the independent Al Usbu daily that the prime minister had sent his written approval of the pact to rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The key to the accord is a ceasefire, an end to a four-year-long state of emergency and a freeze on the planned introduction of Islamic laws.

The militant National Islamic Front (NIF), which has rejected appeals to join a new broad-based government and has bitterly opposed the pact, is committed to sharia.

The minister said he proposed during talks with rebel leaders in Addis Ababa last week the formation of a joint committee to oversee a month's ceasefire from April 1 which would allow relief agencies to ferry supplies to famine-stricken south Sudan.

Tranquility

The United Nations said last week that it wanted a month of tranquility in the South, where the SPLA has been fighting since 1983 to end what it regards as the domination of the Muslim, Arabised North.

More than 250,000 people started to die there last year and the United Nations fears that, unless relief supplies are not in place before rainy season starts in May, 100,000 more could die this year.

Diplomats in Khartoum said the SPLA was likely to resist a blanket truce but might allow "peace corridors" to be formed. These would allow relief supplies to be sent in but would prevent the Army restocking and rearming besieged garrison towns.

Arabs cross Egypt, attack Gaza post

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 15. (AP): Two Arab guerrillas crossed the Egyptian border and attacked an Israeli outpost in the occupied Gaza Strip with a rifle and hand grenades, the Army said. The guerrillas were captured and wounded.

The attack occurred on the same day as Israel withdrew from the Red Sea resort of Taba and handed sovereignty to Egypt.

An Army announcement said the guerrillas, aged 15 and 17, were from the Canaan Palestinian refugee camp on the Egyptian side of the border.

Military sources said the guerrillas belonged to a fundamentalist group known as Jihad Islami.

No Israeli soldiers were hurt. Sources who demanded anonymity said a third person, perhaps acting as a scout, slipped back across the border with Egypt and avoided capture.

Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, head of Israel's southern command, claimed that even though the guerrillas belonged to Jihad Islami, the attack was carried out with the knowledge of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat and his Fatah guerrillas.

"To the best of our knowledge, the ring was prepared and trained in the Canaan refugee camp in Egyptian Rafah and from there they went with a scout to our territory," he said.

"According to the terrorists being questioned, the ring acted and was sent by Jihad Islami. (They went) with the knowledge of Fatah, and with the knowledge of Abu Ammar (Arafat's code name)." Israel Radio said the goal of the guerrillas was to kill soldiers, take hostages and return to Egypt. The guerrillas were promised \$20,000 for making the attack, it claimed.

Mordechai praised the Egyptians for acting immediately to help find the route the guerrillas had taken and mounting a search for the collaborators who helped the infiltrators.

The Army said the guerrillas, who were lightly to moderately wounded, carried Soviet-made automatic AK-47 rifles, a Swedish-made Karl Gustav sub-machine gun, nine magazines and six Soviet F1 hand grenades.

A military source said the attack failed when a grenade hurled at an Israeli camp rolled back onto the guerrillas' position and exploded, injuring the two Arabs. Soldiers opened fire after hearing an explosion.

US must accept Palestinian rights

W. Bank professor welcomes dialogue

WASHINGTON, March 15. (KUNA): A Palestinian West Bank leader and academic, Dr Ziad Abu Amr, said the Palestinians strongly believe that the opening of a dialogue with the United States, much as it is welcomed, must be matched by American recognition of Palestinian national rights.

"The Palestinians realise that opening a dialogue with the PLO is one thing and recognising national rights by the US, especially the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, is another," said Abu Amr, a professor at Bir Zeit University in the occupied West Bank who is currently on a speaking tour to Washington.

Speaking to KUNA, Abu Amr said although the Palestinians have government's decision to open and maintain the official dialogue with PLO,

"we, however, consider the move insufficient."

The Palestinian professor says that opening the dialogue is "a modest move and a minimum requirement" to accept the political role of the US as an accepted mediator.

"But if the US wished to deservedly enjoy this role it should compound the dialogue with an official recognition of the PLO as a legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people," Abu Amr asserts.

More specifically, the US should publicly and unequivocally recognise Palestinian national rights, including "the right to self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state."

He warned against what he described as "stalling and undermining the substance of the dialogue."

Abu Amr says the Palestinians hope the US will recognise these rights, "but they are still sceptical

about US intentions."

He added that among other things, "the attitudes of the US in international forums and at the UN is a test of its seriousness in responding to Palestinian national aspirations."

"The uprising enabled the PLO to meet US conditions without threatening the actual survival of the organisation," Abu Amr says.

The Palestinian academic, like other West Bank thinkers and analysts, is strongly convinced that the intifada was responsible for all the recent developments in the region. "The intifada acted like a catalyst which activated the stagnant political situation in the whole area," he told KUNA.

"The Palestinians today would like to see the uprising continue both as a catalyst and, at the same time, as a mechanism to end the Israeli

occupation," the Bir Zeit professor emphasised.

Despite the heavy toll the uprising is taking on the Palestinians under occupation, "they see it as a personal as well as a collective investment. Every Palestinian has paid a price. No one would want to see his or her suffering wasted without the cherished salvation, the end to Israeli occupation."

Abu Amr asserts that "the need to continue the uprising enjoys Palestinian consensus as a mechanism for a political settlement."

But he also insists that the uprising "is not an end in itself". Under certain circumstances, the Palestinians waging the intifada would be willing to consider putting an end to the uprising.

"If they have sufficient evidence that their demands are going to be met or if some of them are actually met, the Palestinians will voluntarily stop the uprising, even if that was short of an end to the Israeli occupation," Abu Amr concluded.



Beirut victim

A woman cries over the body of her dead neighbour in East Beirut after exchanges of artillery shells between the mainly Christian Army troops and Muslim forces which killed 32 people and wounded over one hundred. (Reuters wirephoto)

Seven years of squabbling ends

Israel hands Taba to Egypt

TABA, Egypt, March 15. (AP): Egyptians today raised a huge black, white and red flag over the long-disputed Red Sea resort of Taba and chanted "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great) as an Israeli convoy of buses and cars pulled out.

The turnover ended seven years of bitter squabbling over the 250-acre (100 hectare) strip of beach that divided relations between the two former Middle East adversaries.

Egyptian troops carrying rifles and 32 Egyptian police entered the resort in groups of three. Hundreds of Egyptian workers climbed a hill overlooking the resort and sang their national anthem, "My Country, My Country."

At the same time, a convoy of dozens of Israeli buses, police vehicles and cars drove out of Taba along with about 50 protesting hotel workers who sang Israel's national anthem. Two Israeli dabus patrol boats stood off the beach.

A contingent of green-breasted Israeli border police stopped to shake hands with Egyptian police before departing.

A large Israeli flag was defiantly waved from the top floor window of the 10-story hotel, apparently by an Israeli hotel guest, as the Egyptians raised

their flag.

Israeli workers at Taba's 326-room Sonesta Hotel chanted in protest shortly before the handover and burned tires on a hill overlooking the hotel, sending up a large column of black smoke.

"We want our rights. The government is prepared to give back the land, but they can't give us up," an Israeli woman shouted at police who arrested several workers earlier.

Israeli radio broadcast live from the scene. "From this moment, Taba is Egyptian," the Israeli announcer said dramatically as the turnover was completed at noon (1000 GMT).

Yitzhak Lior, deputy director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry and the senior Israeli present, said "we went to court, and this was the decision. At the bottom line, we arrived at a mutual compromise without scars."

Ahmed Al Masiri, Egypt's counsel-general in Eilat, was quoted by Israel Radio as saying the path to improved normalisation of relations with Israel was "now open."

"I hope this will be a bridge to peace, peace between the two peoples," he was quoted as saying.

Weizman raps Shamir over PLO refusal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 15. (AP): Science Minister Ezer Weizman on Tuesday attacked the government's refusal to talk to the PLO and accused Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of conducting "political acrobatics" to avoid a peace dialogue.

Weizman, a leading member of the left-leaning Labour Party, said his party should leave the government and formulate its own peace proposals if Shamir fails to deliver Israel to the negotiating table by this summer.

"Let's say it by June, July, August, nothing happens... I think the Labour Party has to crystallise its policy and get the hell out of the government," said Weizman.

Weizman, who was the Labour Party's campaign manager in last November's parliamentary elections, told reporters in his Jerusalem office that it was unrealistic to expect Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to negotiate with Israel.

Jews establish new settlement

Response to Taba

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 15. (AP): Jewish settlers moved tractors and mobile homes to a hilltop today, starting a new settlement in the occupied West Bank.

The settlement, the first since the new coalition government came to office last November, started the same day as Israel withdrew from the Red Sea resort of Taba, handing sovereignty over to Egypt.

Uri Ariel, head of the West Bank Settlement Council, said the construction work was Israel's response to the withdrawal from Taba.

"It's a good start that we are building a settlement in the land of Israel," Ariel said on Israel Radio. "Maybe it's also a special day when they are folding the (Israeli) flag in Taba."

However, there was opposition to the settlement in Israel's divided government and funding for construction remained up in

the air. Elsewhere in the West Bank, three Palestinians, including a nine-year-old boy, were shot and wounded in clashes with troops. Arab hospital officials said.

The Army said it was checking the report.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, the Army arrested two Palestinian hospital workers who co-operated with Israel, an Army spokesman said. He identified the leader of the hit squad as a member of Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction.

During house searches, troops confiscated a submachine gun, seven handguns and a typewriter used to write threatening letters to collaborators, the spokesman said.

Israeli officials have said attacks by Palestinians against so-called collaborators are in violation of Arafat's pledge that the PLO has abandoned terror.

Kabul mounts attacks in Jalalabad

SAMARKHEL, Afghanistan, March 15. (UPI): Government forces mounted air and artillery attacks against Muslim rebels trying to take the key eastern city of Jalalabad, while the Afghan envoy to Moscow claimed two US military advisers died in combat.

US officials flatly denied the charge yesterday by Afghan Ambassador Sayed Ghulabzoi, and a State Department spokesman said the envoy may have been referring to two American journalists believed to have been "caught in cross fire" in the Jalalabad area, no further details were available.

Ghulabzoi told a Moscow news conference the two Americans were among a group of foreign military advisers and Pakistani troops assisting the Muslim rebels on Monday in an unsuccessful attack on Jalalabad, which sits astride the main road used to truck food and other supplies to Kabul from Pakistan.

He said the bodies of two American advisers and 30 Pakistani soldiers were found around Jalalabad.

He said the bodies of the foreigners were taken by helicopter back to Pakistan on Monday.

Replace

Rebel leaders said they hoped to capture Jalalabad and make it the seat of an interim government formed by their Pakistan-based leaders last month to replace President Najibullah. The Soviet Union Feb 15 completed a nine-month withdrawal of its troops backing the government of Najibullah.

Government troops and US-supported rebels face each other from either side of Jalalabad's airport, a heavily mined no-man's land. The city itself is under guerrilla pressure from all four sides.

"We are so close now we can hear officials in loudspeaker vans appealing to civilians to defend the city," said one guerrilla commander, Haji Mateen.

Afghan warplanes, flying in pairs and at high altitude, bombed rebel areas around Jalalabad and in Samarkhel, 8 miles (13 km) south of the city, during a visit by a group of Pakistani journalists yesterday. Both sides also exchanged artillery fire.

The guerrillas said they suffered considerable casualties in yesterday's bombardment, but claimed they shot down two jet fighters.

The vast Samarkhel garrison, designed to defend Jalalabad, fell last week after about three hours of fighting. It is now manned by about 500 mujahideen guerrillas and serves as a base for the operation against Jalalabad.

Hasty

Items of clothing, shoes, letters and photographs left behind by soldiers bore witness to the hasty government retreat.

Guerrilla commanders said they had captured about 300 military vehicles as well as artillery and other weapons at the garrison.

India is ready to fly humanitarian aid to Afghanistan soon, Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said today.

On his arrival in Kabul after a two-week visit to India, Wakil was asked by reporters if New Delhi had agreed to send food and other supplies.

Israeli-PLO talks needed

(Continued from Page 1)

But Jordan's King Hussein has ruled himself out as a negotiating partner for the Palestinians, in favour of the PLO.

A leading member of the PLO said today the US must define terrorism and clearly spell out its position on Middle East issues in its next talks with the PLO.

Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), deputy leader of PLO chairman Arafat's Fatah movement, said there was an urgency about the talks because extremists were waiting to sabotage the PLO's peace strategy.

The meeting, which is expected in the next two weeks, will be the second formal session since the US agreed to open a dialogue with the PLO last December.

The PLO has accused the new US administration of dragging its feet on Middle East policy and of bringing up minor issues in a series of informal contacts between US Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau and PLO representative Hakam Balawi.

"(The next talks) should go into the fundamental issues, most importantly the US attitude towards a comprehensive settlement... towards the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and its position on an international peace conference," Abu Iyad said.

"Then we must define terrorism, so we no longer disagree on this, since we consider that the intifada and the armed struggle against the occupation are not terrorism," he added.

In a harsh rebuff to US calls for moderation in dealing with the Palestinian uprising, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has vowed his "iron fist" would continue striking the Palestinians until they lay down their stones.

And, distancing himself from reported overtures of the Bush administration, he said Israel did not need the US to act as a mediator between Israel and the PLO.

In an interview with the Boston Globe in Tel Aviv, the Israeli official said soon Israel would have a detailed plan for dealing with the 14-month revolt. He added it would be based on "two feet, a political foot and a military foot."

Now, Rabin admitted, Israel is relying only on the military option to quell the demonstration that so far have killed over 400 Palestinians and about 15 Israelis.

He claimed the Palestinians would come to realise that "by force they can achieve nothing, a view greatly at odds with most US and foreign analysts."

He also said the Palestinians would realise that Arafat cannot "deliver," and that local uprising leaders also would come to see this.

Rabin's plans called for a six-month halt to the Palestinians' revolt, with a promise in return to allow the holding of "free elections" in the occupied Arab territories.

All aspects of the Palestinians' lives would be up to them, he claimed.

Three years after "autonomy" is implemented, the Israeli official said peace talks would get under way for the "ultimate solution" involving Israel, the Palestinians and Jordan.

This and other ideas explicitly excluded the PLO from any role.

The Palestinians have rejected Rabin's approach while Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir also has criticised it.

Despite the US-PLO dialogue, Rabin noted the Bush administration and Israel still agreed on many things, including rejection of an independent Palestinian state.

An American Jewish committee survey shows that a majority of US Jews oppose Israeli actions in suppressing the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

The survey also found that 47 per cent of American Jews believe the Palestinians have a right to a homeland on the West Bank and Gaza "so long as it does not threaten Israel." Only 23 per cent disagreed while 30 per cent said they were not sure.

The poll, conducted for the Committee, a major American Jewish organisation, by an independent polling firm, says that while American Jews are deeply troubled by Israel's handling of the uprising they still strongly support the Jewish state.

"There are some signs of change but American Jews are still, literally, scared to death of the PLO," said sociologist Steven Cohen, who interviewed 944 American Jews for the survey.

Cohen said that 54 per cent of American Jews thought Israel was acting wrongly in the way it suppressed the 15-month-old uprising while 29 per cent disagreed and 18 per cent said they did not know.

Almost 400 Palestinians and 16 Israelis have died in the uprising, sparking bitter divisions among America's six million Jews who form the world's largest Jewish community and who sent more than \$300 million to Israel last year.

Over 60 per cent of those surveyed said Israel should stop forcibly transferring Palestinians out of the West Bank, a policy that has brought condemnation from US human rights monitors.

Younger American Jews expressed the sharpest disagreements with Israeli policies in the occupied territories.

Thirty-eight per cent of those under 35 years old and 58 per cent older than 65 said Israel would be threatened by a Palestinian nation.

"This testifies to the powerful effect that the Holocaust and the founding of the state of Israel (in 1948) had on the older generation... The younger the Jew, the less likely he is to have been impressed by developments like these," Cohen said.

Despite concern over Israeli policies, 62 per cent of those interviewed said they felt "very close" or "fairly close" to Israel, the same number as in 1986 before the uprising began.

"We want to make it clear that we expect their solidarity against any pressure that might jeopardise our security and existence," Cabinet Minister Mordechai Gur of the Labour Party told a news conference today.

In Bonn, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl today the time was ripe for a Middle East conference.

The Egyptian President said: "There is a golden opportunity now to settle the Middle East conflict and reach a permanent solution."

Rushdie debacle

KHARTOUM, March 15. (UPI): The government today banned the entry into Sudan of Salman Rushdie's controversial novel, "The Satanic Verses," giving legal weight to an already existing informal ban on the book. The ban, announced on official Omdurman Radio by Culture Undersecretary Mohamed Ali Daleil, also applies to all other works by Rushdie and all publications on Penguin books, publishers of "The Satanic Verses."

Writers condemning the death threat against novelist Salman Rushdie have spoken for the world.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Sir Shridath Ramphal said last night. He told an audience at Scotland's Stirling University that the call for Rushdie's murder had "understandably and rightly" produced a wave of adverse reaction throughout the Commonwealth.

Writers inspired by the furor over "The Satanic Verses" began a 36-hour vigil near UN headquarters on Tuesday, reading excerpts from books which had at one time been censored.

The vigil was sponsored by the National Writers Union and a group called Article 19, which urges respect for a provision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights calling for freedom of opinion and expression.

Benazir's letter

BAGHDAD, March 15. (Reuters): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein received a letter from Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto today on ways of developing relations between their countries, the Iraqi news agency INA reported.

It said the letter was delivered by Pakistani Trade and Local Administration Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat, who arrived in Baghdad early in the day for an official visit.

Iran-Muscat talks

NICOSIA, March 15. (Reuters): Iran's Heavy Industry Minister Behzad Nabavi opened official talks in Muscat on Wednesday on increasing industrial and trade co-operation with Oman.

The Omani News Agency said Nabavi held talks with Commerce and Industry Minister Colonel Salem Abdullah Al Ghazali on ways of strengthening ties.

Nabavi arrived in Muscat on Tuesday for a four-day meeting of a joint committee set up this week to boost co-operation in trade, industry, technology and transport.

No chemical plant

BONN, March 15. (AP): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak today called a news report that his country was planning to build a chemical weapons plant a "propagandistic declaration."

Speaking to journalists, Mubarak denied a New York Times report that Egypt may be building a chemical weapons plant.

"These reports really astonished me," Mubarak said.

Local elections

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 15. (Reuters): Leaders of Israel's rightist Likud party said today it had finally taken control of local government from Labour by winning 11 out of 19 mayoral contests in run-off municipal elections.

But Labour leaders, who conceded defeat in the first round of voting on Feb 28 when Likud swept six of the 10 largest cities, also claimed victory in Tuesday's elections.

Killer arrested

NICOSIA, March 15. (AP): Police have arrested the killer of the parents of Iran's traffic police chief, Brig. Gen. Reza Nik-Mansh, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported today.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, identified the man only by his first name, Hassan, and said he was a 26-year-old drug addict related to the victims, Abdullah and Molouk Nim-Mansh.

Hassan confessed to killing the police officer's parents and stealing the equivalent of \$123,000 in gold coins and Iranian currency.

Repatriation

SANAA, March 15. (Reuters): More than 30,000 South Yemenis who fled the country in 1986 after bloody clashes between rival factions of the ruling Marxist party will be allowed to return, North Yemeni political sources said.

Most of those who fled the fighting settled in North Yemen where deposed President Ali Nasser Mohammed lives in exile.

Cleric shot dead

ANKARA, March 15. (UPI): An unidentified gunman shot and killed a Muslim cleric in an Istanbul mosque early Tuesday, after a wave of demonstrations by fundamentalists calling for women to be permitted to use the Islamic veil in Turkish universities.

Handwritten text in Arabic script, possibly a signature or note, located at the bottom of the page.



Education delegates

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah yesterday received at his Diwan at the Bayan Palace, heads of delegations who took part in the recently concluded 19th Educational Conference. HH welcomed the delegates and thanked them for participating in the conference.

NHA to distribute 4,000 houses

By Nashat Al Agha

KUWAIT'S National Housing Authority (NHA) will soon begin a distribution of houses to citizens which is expected to total 4,000 by the end of this year, according to a senior official.

In an interview with Arab Times Seyyash Faried Al Ajeel, Assistant Director-General for Distribution, Ratification and Follow-Up Affairs at the authority, said that this record figure will constitute a paramount leap in the authority's efforts towards providing government housing to its citizens.

Suggestions

He added that every effort is being made to ensure appropriate standards of design and execution. To obtain optimum levels in this respect, the authority has taken into account the comments and suggestions of citizens who replied to the questionnaire circulated by the NHA, including their own personal past experiences.

Ajeel said that all plots falling within the current five-year plan — which is to expire next year — will be distributed. He added that 630 plots are to be distributed in the Al Qurain project, and 328 plots at Sabah Al Salem suburb.

Unexpected dust storm

A SUDDEN change in the direction of winds yesterday afternoon, brought a massive dust storm to Kuwait which took everyone by surprise and forced Kuwait International Airport to close. The weather department said that strong north-westerly winds blowing from Iraq caused a low pressure belt, Kuwait International Airport received the last flight at 3.15 pm shortly before the dust storm erupted. An Egypt Air flight was later diverted to Bahrain. Other incoming flights were asked to delay their arrival. The closure continued for a few hours only as the dust later subsided. A cold spell followed.

Drugs seized

By Salem Al Wawan

A LARGE quantity of drugs was seized recently by customs officials at Kuwait International Airport from a passenger who arrived from Pakistan. It has been learned.

The Pakistani national, identified as Ahmad, arrived from Karachi aboard a Kuwait Airways flight. Alert customs officials suspicious of the man's behaviour instituted a thorough search of his personal baggage and discovered the drugs neatly hidden in a large bag.

The accused and the contraband have been referred to investigation authorities.

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Chinese vice-premier on two-day Kuwait visit

KUWAIT, March 15. (KUNA): Chinese Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun met here today with the Kuwaiti leadership and senior officials to discuss upgrading relations between the two countries.

Jiyun, who arrived here last night on a two-day visit to Kuwait, told KUNA at the airport that his talks here will focus on deepening existing friendly ties in various spheres.

The vice-premier, who was received on arrival by Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Abdul Razzak Al Khaled, Assistant Undersecretary for Commercial Affairs Rashid Al Mijrin and the Chinese ambassador here, noted that Kuwait-Chinese relations have covered major strides since their declaration 18 years ago.

Jiyun underlined that Beijing welcomes establishment of invest-

ment projects by Kuwaiti businessmen.

Hoping that his talks here would boost friendship relations, the vice-premier said that economic ties will be dealt with extensively.

HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier received Jiyun in audiences. The guest also held talks with the state minister for foreign affairs, finance minister, managing director of the Public Investment Authority, director-general of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry's president.

Tomorrow Jiyun will meet with the Commerce and Industry Minister and Board Chairman and Director-General of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources.

Iraqi reconstruction

Saudi plan to establish specialised companies

SAUDI contracting companies are working to establish three large specialised contracting companies to undertake large projects in and outside the Gulf area, according to a Saudi official.

In an interview with the Bahraini Ayam newspaper Chairman of the Saudi Council Chambers and Deputy Chairman of the Arabian Gulf Chambers Union Saad Al Mejjel said that the idea to establish the three companies originated during the visit of a number of Saudi businessmen and contractors to Iraq recently.

He added that the Saudi contractors were among a team of Gulf delegates visiting Kuwait to study the ability of contributing towards rebuilding Iraqi cities. The official hoped that a similar visit will be paid to Iran.

The return to stability in the Gulf area after eight years of destructive war makes it imperative that Gulf companies co-operate to meet the reconstruction and development needs of both Iraq and Iran, the official said.

Parking lots in Amghara

THE Public Warehouse Company will establish truck parking lots in Amghara and provide technical and other professional services in Abdullah Port in the near future, according to the company board chairman, Nasser Mohammed Al Rashid.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the company will receive its first plot in Sulaibiya within a month. The new plot will be sufficient for 117 units.

He added that 2,000 applications have been received by the company from entrepreneurs for these limited units. The company follows the same conditions as those of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in selecting

applications, he said.

The second plot in Jahra will be received by the company by the end of this year, and will be for 320 units. The Public Warehouse Company now owns three storage areas in Doha, Sulaibiya and Abdullah ports. Operations at Doha Stores have increased by 15 per cent while Sulaibiya Stores has registered a 13 per cent increase, both during 1988.

The chairman said that the company provides numerous services in the field of storage in addition to managing stores owned by other establishments such as those of the Ministry of Education and the Customs Department.

Arab food study

Dependence on external sources will threaten political stability

DAMMAM, March 15. (GNA): A recent economic study warned that the food situation in the Arab world is deteriorating. The study predicted that if the present situation continues, the dangers threatening the Arab world will increase. It further warned that food could be used as a weapon to pressure, threaten and destabilise the Arab economic and political situation.

The study was recently prepared and issued by the Arab Union of Chambers (Trade, Industry and Agriculture). The study said that the main problem arises from the fact that the Arab world continues to increase its dependence upon external sources for its food requirements, with the result that their deficit increases each year.

Dependence

The study said that as long as Arab food production weakens, Arab dependence on foreign sources will increase with local Arab markets becoming flooded with foreign products which subsequently weaken local production. This, the study emphasised, further complicates Arab problems.

The study said that several Arab countries have been trapped by number of foreign countries who provide them with food products at cheap prices. Thus, the study continued, since Arab countries try to provide food products to their people at the lowest possible prices, this causes them to neglect

national food production. The study named the sectors of meat and dairies as being most affected by such policies.

The study added that what adds insult to injury is that the Arab food imports bill has increased ten times in the last 15 years. The study questioned what the size of this bill will be if prices continue to increase.

In the period 1970-1985, the study said, the annual growth rate of Arab agricultural production was only 2.5 per cent while the annual growth of the Arab demand for such products was six per cent. Accordingly, self-sufficiency rates of Arab agricultural production during the same period sharply dropped.

The study also said that the only food sector with surplus in the Arab world is fish products, which exceed requirements.

The study added that with the exception of few cases such as Saudi Arabia's wheat production and Morocco, Jordan and Libya's vegetable production, all other Arab countries have achieved very low growth rates in all food sectors. It added that the annual growth rate of agricultural production in the Arab world during the period from 1975-85 was only about four per cent, while at the same time the annual increase rate in the value of food imports was around 16 per cent.

Arab family and society link vital

Women's conference in Bahrain

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

A GROUP of Kuwaiti women will stress the vital link between the family and Arab society at a meeting of the Women's Coordinating Committee for the Gulf and Arabian peninsula to be held in Bahrain from March 18 to 22.

"We don't want the family to break up. The nuclear family has been a part of traditional Arab

society and we will strive to maintain it," said Dr Rasha Al Sabah, who chairs the two-woman official Kuwaiti delegation. Dr Rasha, who is Assistant Rector for Community Services at Kuwait University, said "We cannot lose our roots; because if we do, we'll become non-persons."

Family ties

She said that although modernisation has brought about progress and change, the Arabs

are not willing to give up their deep-rooted tradition of close family ties. "We do not call for progress at the expense of losing our identity," she said.

Dr Loulwa Al Qutami, who is the secretary-general of the Women's Co-ordinating Committee, has already left for Bahrain to prepare for the opening.

In addition to Dr Loulwa and Dr Rasha, a 26-woman unofficial delegation will also par-

ticipate in the Bahrain meeting. Among them are Alia Al Eisa of the Nadi Al Fatat, and Dalal Al Othman.

Theme

Participants will discuss 12 studies on family and children. Kuwait will present two papers on "The Gulf Family and Hopes for a Better Future for its Children", which is the theme of the conference. Dr Latifa Al Rujab, an assistant at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and

Dr Ali Al Tarrah, a leading sociologist, will present the papers.

Representatives from the Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs in the six GCC states, Iraq and North and South Yemen will participate in the conference.

Dr Rasha said the participants will discuss financial and cultural reports and elect a new committee. The meeting is held every two years.

AIDS carriers will not be deported

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT is no longer indiscriminately deporting expatriate AIDS carriers, according to Dr Kazim Behbehani, the co-ordinator of Kuwait's committee for control of AIDS.

Each case is reviewed individually, and those who do not pose a danger to the community and who can be closely monitored are allowed to stay in the country, Behbehani told the Arab Times.

He cited children as an example. Twenty-five AIDS carriers, including five Kuwaitis, have been identified in Kuwait. The number of expatriate carriers who have been deported has not been disclosed.

The policy of deporting expatriates infected with AIDS first came under review last October at the inaugural meeting of the new 15-member AIDS committee. The decision to modify the policy is believed to have been taken late last year.

Meanwhile, the authorities are preparing to launch a health education campaign which will tell the public how AIDS cannot be contracted. This, it is hoped, will help dispel a widespread misconception in Kuwait that the killer disease can be transmitted through incidental contact with AIDS carriers. The campaign is primarily aimed at Kuwait's youth.

Misconceptions

"The students appear to know how the disease is transmitted, but there are misconceptions and doubts as to whether it can be transmitted through a handshake, kissing, clothes, use of public lavatories, saliva and in swimming pools," said Dr Imtissal Al Nashar, head of Kuwait's school health education unit. From her interviews with dozens of secondary school students she concluded that such misconceptions would lead to the condemnation of the AIDS carriers as outcasts, something the health authorities would like to avoid.

Nashar spoke at the end of a five-day workshop in Kuwait aimed at hammering out a health education campaign against AIDS. This was the first attempt in Kuwait to devise an anti-AIDS campaign based on interviews with the members of the public.

Workshop

Sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the workshop brought together experts

from the organisation's headquarters in Geneva, the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) in Alexandria, and the region's 12 Arab countries. These included physicians, health educators, artists, TV producers and social scientists.

The workshop produced some thirty public information messages aimed at 10 target groups, including teachers, nurses, policemen, students, hotel employees, religious groups and mothers.

The messages, to be displayed on posters and in pamphlets and film presentations, will try to fill each particular group's gaps in information on the disease.

Message

Perhaps the most important message that emerged from the workshop — one which applies to all groups — is that protection from the disease is first an individual responsibility.

"We told the students that if they don't protect themselves nobody else can," said Nashar.

She was disheartened to learn from her interviews with the students that most have a poor relationship with their fathers. "The father is not their source of information, comfort or trust," said Nashar.

Although the participants claimed that the messages did not contain do's and don'ts per se, the workshop produced some specific instructions.

Among the messages was one directed to men, who are more exposed to the disease. It says: Have one partner, and she should be your wife.

Another message appealed to the Arabs' love of children.

It asks newly married people to abstain from practices that can lead to an AIDS infection and thus harm their future offspring.

A different set of messages were devised for laboratory technicians warning them to strictly adhere to the lab procedures when handling blood samples, irrespective of whether they are infected or not.

Dr Hind Khattab of EMRO praised the stand of the religious groups who instead of outrage were ready to show sympathy for AIDS patients.

"They stressed that an AIDS patient in their view is the same as any other sick person. They pledged to co-operate with the health authorities in spreading their messages," said Khattab.

Protection for local industry

New committee to develop state plan

KUWAIT is planning to set up a ministerial committee headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed to supervise the development and application of the state plan, according to a senior official.

Undersecretary of Planning and the General Co-ordinator of the Five-Year-Plan Dr Abdul Hadi Al Awadhi said that the committee is to be set up due to the absence of a planning council. The ministry is compiling comprehensive data on the activities of industrial installations.

Overview

A study prepared by the Ministry of Planning stressed the need for organising planning units within both ministries and public establishments to co-operate in preparing plans and detailed programmes, the official said.

The new planning concept is intended to provide an all-inclusive overview of economic and social relations, including solutions to present development problems, Awadhi said.

The workings of the Public Authority for Industrialisation had been discussed with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Shuaiba Industrial Area. The Ministry of Planning will play a significant role towards setting up of the authority's objectives. The establishment of this authority is intended to alleviate several problems that face the industrialisation in the country.

Speaking of the national workforce and its present role in the industrial field, the undersecretary said that although Law No. 6 of 1965 stipulates that the national workforce should constitute at least 25 per cent at industrial installations, this has been ignored by employers des-

pite direct and indirect support extended by the government. Local industrialists have exerted no efforts towards grooming national manpower. Expatriates still constitute 92 per cent of the workforce in the private sector, the official said.

Manpower

He added that the present plan envisions meeting the requirements of social development and manpower needs. Bringing about a balance between the Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti population is a top priority, the official said.

Commenting on the performance of national industries, Awadhi said the government is striving to provide protection to these industries through raising customs levies on imported products. But, he added, national industries should upgrade the quality of their products and develop strong marketing policies.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Oil show a success

THE Society of Petroleum Engineers 6th Middle East Oil Show, which ended Tuesday, proved to be an outstanding success, according to the organisers of Arabian Exhibitions Management (AEM).

The event, which lasted three-and-a-half days, recorded a total of 3,485 visitors, out of which 1,925 were foreign visitors or 55 per cent of the total. The number of foreign visitors to the show is a record, which also represents the largest foreign visitor attendance for any exhibition held in Bahrain, according to a statement issued to the Arab Times.

The prestigious biennial show generated a constant stream of top quality visitors from the region's oil industry. Participants have been reported to be generally "jubilant" at the level of business contacts made. Actual confirmed sales were made from some stands, including a British company that sold its entire display stocks on the spot to a Saudi buyer.

Attendance

A total of 825 delegates registered for the technical conference, making this the largest number ever to attend in the 10 years that this conference has been held in Bahrain, according to the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE). A total of 90 conference papers were presented during the sessions which were exceptionally well-attended.

A spokeswoman for the SPE commented that in 1979, when the conference first took place, over 90 per cent of the authors and speakers came from outside the Middle East region, compared to the 1989 conference where over 70 per cent of the authors and speakers came from within the Middle East.

Bahrain population goes up

ACCORDING to the Central Statistics Bureau, the population of the Bahrain is now 457,600, of whom two-thirds are nationals and one-third expatriates, the official Gulf News Agency reported today.

The figures reflected an overall population increase of around 10 per cent over the past two years. The same bureau estimated the population of Bahrain in March 1987 at 411,660.

The report, in round figures, broke down the present total of 302,500 Bahrainis as 152,000 males and 150,700 females, and the 154,800 expatriates as 114,000 males and 40,800 females, the agency said.

Oil boom

The report said there were 157,000 residents under 14, compared to 290,500 aged between 15 and 64, and 10,100 who are over 65.

The expatriate community in Bahrain came with the oil boom years of the 1970s as in the rest of the Gulf Indians and Pakistanis form the bulk of the labour force.

Bahrain derives its importance mainly from being an offshore banking centre in the heart of the oil-rich region and there is also a large British community.

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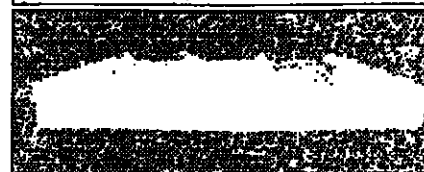
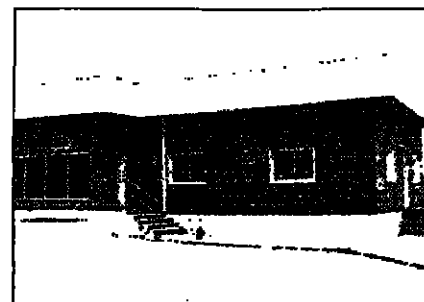
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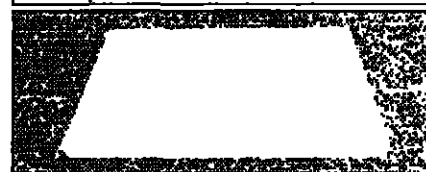
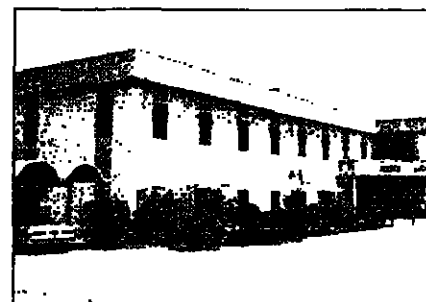
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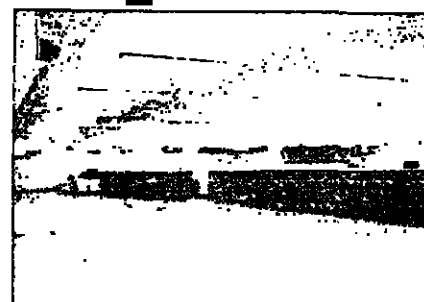
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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

VICTORY belongs to the most persevering — Napoleon Bonaparte, French general-statesman (1769-1821).

Spirit of entente

Overhauling Aswan Dam

By Jeffrey Bartholet

ASWAN, Egypt. (Reuters): US engineers are overhauling the Aswan High Dam, 33 years after Washington refused to finance it and left Moscow to build what became a symbol of Egyptian-Soviet defiance of the West.

The Americans are replacing some of the machinery in the dam with modern parts made in the United States.

US ambassador Frank Wisner said on a recent visit to this Nile-side town 1,200 km (740 miles) south of Cairo: "This dam is an historic accomplishment of Egypt in her partnership with the Soviet Union — nothing should begin to take away from that."

But he said that the US renovations should be seen in the spirit of détente.

High Dam manager Hamdi Shafiee remembers his anger in 1956, when Washington backed out of the Aswan project hoping to pressure Egypt's revolutionary leader Gamal Abdel Nasser into more pro-Western policies.

"There was a very bad feeling. I think the Americans are now sorry for that decision," he said.

Nasser nationalised the British-controlled Suez Canal, in part to use its profits for the dam project, and proclaimed before an Egyptian crowd at the time: "Oh Americans, may you choke to death on your fury."

The step was a turning point in the superpower struggle for dominance in the Middle East. The Soviet Union took over the Aswan project and became Egypt's backer for more than a decade.

The tide turned again until 1972, when late President Anwar Sadat expelled Soviet advisers and began courting the West.

The United States is now pumping \$140 million into projects to upgrade the dam, a massive concrete and earthen structure built by 33,000 engineers and workers over a decade.

Renovations include replacement of the 12 hydroturbine runners, which spin out 15 per cent of Egypt's electricity.

Half the new 140-tonne runners, three to four per cent more efficient than the old ones, have been installed and the others should be in place by 1992. They are designed to extend the life of the power station by 40 years.

The dam is believed to have spared Egypt the effects of both drought and flood that have ravaged other countries along the Nile basin.

The current modernisation is funded from \$2.3 billion in annual US aid to Egypt, the second largest recipient of American assistance after Israel.

Moscow, meanwhile, is cautiously moving back on the scene. In 1987, the Soviet Union rescheduled Egypt's \$3 billion in military debt on easy terms and they are now starting to discuss soft loans for new civilian projects.

But co-operation — not competition — is the theme of superpower foreign policy today.

"In the 1960s and 1970s, each side had a gun at its back," Egyptian Electricity Minister Maher Abaza told Reuters.

"The Americans said you are my friend or you are my enemy" — this was their policy then and it was the same for the Russians.

"But nowadays they say 'you are my friend and you can also be a friend to others'."

Wisner's visit to the dam, including a minute to admire a large bust of Nasser, came two months after Abaza took a Soviet government delegation there and praised co-operation with Moscow.

Egypt has found that it does not jeopardise its relations with the West by slowly improving ties with the Soviet Union. The balance — though still strongly tilted toward Washington — helps President Hosni Mubarak resist local and foreign critics who call him a US puppet.

"All nations need to extend a hand," said Wisner at the High Dam. "It would be wrong to think our visit or anybody's visit is competition."

Egypt, \$43 billion in debt and anxious for help from any source, is careful not to offend either side.

"Of course we are Arabs and Arabs trace everything to their origins," said Shafiee, the dam manager. "If the Russians helped us construct this dam, then we keep the Russians in our hearts."

Press review

Lebanese urged to unite

AMMAN. (Reuters): A Jordanian newspaper has urged Lebanese to unite to end their country's political strife and expressed sorrow over the renewed cycle of fighting and bloodshed.

"Unity is the only way to rescue Lebanon... Dialogue and national reconciliation are the only means to end the country's crisis," said the Arabic daily Al-Dustour.

It accused "some Lebanese factions whose interests were harmed" by Arab League efforts to help pull the country out of its political dilemma for Tuesday's fighting in which some 50 people were killed and 140 wounded.

"It seems that some factions speeded up efforts to explode Arab goodwill efforts by using force for fear they might lose their partial interests that do not serve the country's welfare."

Start serious talks

CAIRO. (KUNA): An Egyptian daily has called on the United States to promote the American-Palestinian dialogue and to start serious talks with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of Palestinian people.

The daily Al-Akhar said yesterday that if Washington was sincere in its efforts for realising peace instead of violence in the occupied lands it should hasten the holding of talks with Palestinians and support the convening of the international peace conference in the nearest future.

The daily also expressed its concern over the new tone of some of Washington officials who directly and indirectly are calling for an end to Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab lands.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1521 — Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan reaches Philippine islands.

1527 — Mogul Emperor Barbar defeats Hindu confederacy at Kanwarha, India.

1534 — England severs all relations with Roman Catholic papacy.

1690 — France's King Louis XIV sends troops to Ireland to fight for King James II.

1812 — Austria, in alliance with France, agrees to provide Army for Napoleon Bonaparte.

1844 — Greece adopts constitution with two chambers.

1851 — Spanish concordat with papacy, whereby Catholicism becomes sole faith in Spain and church gains control of education and the press.

1906 — Japan nationalizes its railways.

1917 — Russia's Tsar Nicholas II abdicates and Prince George Lvov, Paul Milukov and Alexander Kerensky form ministry.

1922 — Britain recognizes kingdom of Egypt under Fuad I, with joint Anglo-Egyptian sovereignty over Sudan.

1934 — Rome protocols signed between Italy, Austria and Hungary to form Danubian bloc against little entente of Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia.

1935 — Germany repudiates disarmament clauses of Versailles treaty that ended World War I.

1945 — Japanese resistance to US assault on Iwo Jima in Pacific comes to end in World War II.

1987 — Torrential rains and mudslides in Tadzhikistan, Soviet Union, destroy dam, killing 19 people and leaving 9 others missing.

Syria unlikely to leave

Lebanon in turmoil

By Diana Abdallah

BEIRUT. (Reuters): Syria, which began its military involvement in Lebanon fighting for the Christians 13 years ago, has been formally told by Christian leader Michel Aoun to get out.

But diplomats and politicians say Damascus is highly unlikely to heed Major-General Aoun's demand that it end "the worst occupation in history," by withdrawing its 25,000 troops.

Syria sees the chaos in Lebanon, divided into militia-run fiefdoms and partly occupied by Israel, as a threat to its own local and regional security, they said.

"Syria will not withdraw its troops from Lebanon until it sees that the risk to its security is over. At least until Israel withdraws," one diplomat said.

Analysts say Damascus wants to tighten its hold on its tiny neighbour to reinforce its role as a Middle East power.

"Syria will never give up Lebanon even if it has to fight for it. It is the last card it has for any regional settlement," an Arab analyst said.

Syria now supports the Muslim-led government of acting Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss, competing for recognition with Aoun's administration since abortive presidential polls last September.

Iraq's logistical and diplomatic support for Aoun, who is also the Christian Army commander, is the latest challenge to the role of Baghdad's arch-enemy Syria.

Pro-Syrian political sources say Iraq supported Aoun in his demand on Tuesday that Damascus immediately withdraw its forces, deployed over two-thirds of Lebanon.

Aoun accused Syria of taking part in fierce battles between his troops and Muslim forces across Beirut's Green Line, in nearby mountains and in the eastern Bekaa on Tuesday.

The battles, which killed at least 50 people, were the bloodiest between Muslims and Christians in two years.

There was no independent confirmation of his charges. Syria's policy so far had been to avoid direct military intervention, preferring to influence events through its Muslim allies.

Diplomats and analysts feared Aoun's determination to continue the battle against Syria would plunge the country into a new bloodbath and possibly spark a regional conflict.

"Syria is trying to avoid being dragged into a confrontation with the Christians because it knows Aoun wants to give regional and international dimensions to the conflict," a pro-Syrian politician said.

Syrian troops entered Lebanon in 1976 at the government's request, ostensibly as part of an Arab peacekeeping force to halt the civil war which began in 1975.



A young boy runs during the latest fighting in West Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

Harmony disturbed

SIR: Salman Rushdie in his novel The Satanic Verses has written against the Holy Quran and Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

Every time a Muslim names the prophets of God, Adam, Abraham, Ismail, Jacob, Isaac, Moses and Jesus he/she adds the suffix of Alaihi Salam.

A Muslim respects Moses, Jesus and others not a shade less than do Christians, Jews or others. Through these prophets, the holy books and scriptures were revealed and we hold them in the highest esteem. All prophets are our prophets. We make no distinction between one and another among them (Holy Quran, S.III.84). There is perfect harmony between the prophets and the holy verses which were revealed to them. The interpretive differences should not be more lasting than the ripple marks on the sand dunes.

I have never entered a church, a synagogue, a temple or any other place of worship with shoes on, just as I cannot enter a mosque in a similar way. This is in compliance with the mandatory norms of Islamic civilization framed in the Quranic verses and sayings of Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

The Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet's sayings lay down elaborate code of conduct for the conservation of resources, consumption, production, distribution and exchange. They give spiritual solace to believers.

Unfortunately the stand taken by Salman Rushdie is an attempt to bring the world community closer to hatred, withering harmony and, God forbid, war of nations. If Rushdie and others are pleased to hurt the feelings of millions of people and to provoke deaths and demonstrations, it's a blow to intellectualism, internationalism and human rights.

The Satanic Verses counters UN's successful efforts of bringing social, economic and political harmony to the world. I solicit the co-operation of the United Nations and the Secretary-General in settling such controversial matters to further strengthen world harmony and peace.

Dr Salahuddin, Aligarh, India.

Ready to shed blood for Islam

SIR: We condemn the British and other Western governments for supporting Salman Rushdie.

Their protection for this man means they are all followers of the great Satan.

The entire Muslim people of Mindanao, Sulu, Palawan (Mindanao) and the Philippines support the death penalty for Salman and our mujahideen are ready to carry out the order without looking forward to any worldly reward, but expect reward from Allah.

We, the Muslims of Mindanao and the Philippines are more than willing to fight and shed the last drop of our blood against any power on earth in

defence of Islam and the Prophet of Islam as our forefathers fought for almost 400 years in defence of Islam, the only true religion before God.

Jamil D. Yahya Alaymani, The Philippines.

Freedom has its limits

SIR: The controversial novel "The Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie should open our eyes to make a strong resolution never to offend the religious sentiments of others. Freedom of speech doesn't mean one can hurt the feelings of others.

Politicians should not meddle with religion to avoid adding fuel to fire. Let history be our teacher.

Yusuf Khan, Shamiya.

Appropriate reply needed

SIR: The recent violence in various parts of the world caused by Salman Rushdie's novel The Satanic Verses deserves serious and thorough investigation of the plot against Muslims.

Muslims, all over the world are not prepared to tolerate any defamatory comment about the Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). God declares in the Holy Quran that Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) is the supreme personality ever born and his deeds were governed by the Almighty. So any absurd and ridiculous comments on such a personality, to get cheap publicity, only hurts the sentiments of billions of Muslims around the world. As Islam stands on a firm base, a small fly like Rushdie should not be given so much publicity.

In the 18th century a book on Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) caused severe resentment among Muslims, but Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, the founder of Muslim Aligarh University, in reply to the above book wrote "The Life of Our Holy Prophet," (PBUH).

We now have enough philosophy to give prompt and appropriate reply to Rushdie's novel. The image of our beloved Prophet is beyond the reach of human beings, but we have to clear the doubts from the minds of non-Muslims. If proper and immediate reply is not given then non-Muslims may think Rushdie is a great author. We must prove that Rushdie is nothing but a puppet of some agencies.

M. Hart in his book "The Hundreds" placed Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) in the first place and the reasons he gave is: "World has never produced such a great man who himself in his life spread Islam in Arabia, Africa, Europe and Central Asia not by force but by his excellent behaviour with non-Muslims. Prophet Mohammad (PBUH)



was the most practical man ever born in the world."

Muslims all over the world should condemn Rushdie.

I fully agree and support the recent statements of Ayatollah Khomeini and I wish that I may be the person who could have killed not only Rushdie but every critic of our beloved Holy Prophet.

As there is little time left we request the authorities to extend the deadline to regularise residence permit.

Mohd Sharif Khan.

Syed Mohd Arif, Safat.

Extend deadline

SIR: The expatriates working in Kuwait want to draw the attention of the government to the problems faced by workers while changing residence permit.

As there is little time left we request the authorities to extend the deadline to regularise residence permit.

Mohd Sharif Khan.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Need for new ideas

US, Israel paper over differences

By Carol Giacomo

WASHINGTON. (Reuters): Israel and the Bush administration have papered over differences in their first high-level talks but they could eventually be at odds over Israel's refusal to deal with the PLO.

US analysts said the talks between Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker achieved the US goal of clearly signalling that Israel must develop new ideas for reducing tensions in the occupied territories.

But Baker laid the groundwork for a potential diplomatic clash on Tuesday when he told a congressional hearing that Israel might have to negotiate peace with the PLO, something Israeli leaders have said they will never do.

"It is an element of our policy to promote direct negotiations which can be meaningful between Israelis and Palestinians, Baker said.

Talk

But Arens said that neither Baker nor President Bush had urged Israel to talk to the PLO when he met with them on Monday and he reaffirmed Israel's determination to find non-PLO partners in any dialogue.

We did discuss the importance of reducing tensions in the area... I didn't need to remind the secretary of state that nobody's more intent in achieving that result than we are."

But I don't think any body has a prescription about how that is to be done," Arens said.

Strains in the new US-Israeli relationship could become more apparent when Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir visits the United States next month.

The prospect of talks between Israel and the PLO was virtually unmentionable for US officials before Chairman Yasser Arafat last December met American conditions to renounce terrorism and recognise Israel's right to exist.

But now Washington has resumed its own talks with the PLO and a new era has begun, experts say.

During Arens' visit, the United States and Israel stressed similarities rather than differences in their positions but both sides worry a gap could grow as the peace process moves forward, Barry Rubin of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy told Reuters.

The visit to Washington by Arens cleared the way for new Israeli proposals for addressing Palestinian concerns in the West Bank and Gaza Strip "but the real test will be when Prime Minister Shamir comes" next month, said Middle East expert Judith Kipper of the Brookings Institution.

Change

"They (Israelis) now understand they have to take some initiatives," she said, adding: "That's definitely a change."

Next week US Ambassador Robert Pelletreau is expected to convey a similar message to the PLO in Tunis as the United States works to improve the regional atmosphere as a first step to direct negotiations between Israel and Palestinians.

The US approach aims initially at "various reinforcing and reciprocal steps which might be taken (by Israelis and Palestinians) to defuse tensions" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where an uprising is in its 15th month.

US officials, speaking on background, said these steps could include Israel ending administrative detentions of Palestinians and Palestinians halting violence in the occupied lands.

But analysts say the list was a "trial balloon" that could be modified as the process evolves.

So far, neither side has embraced the unstructured approach pursued by Bush and Baker.

In fact, one private analyst told Reuters Arens was miffed by the repeated US emphasis during the visit — including two statements by Bush himself — on the need for Shamir to bring new ideas on his trip to Washington.

Arens seemed to hint at this when he told a luncheon of journalists, scholars and officials:

"We in Israel will make every effort to move the peace process forward. We don't need any encouraging... we need peace more than anybody else and we don't need to be urged to make peace... but we need partners for peace."

Arens said Israel was exploring ways to entice Arab nations into peace talks but gave no indication of a change in policies toward the Palestinians.

Israel wants to reduce the scope and the scale of violence but, he said, "it's not easy to do. We're dealing with fanaticism, with brutality, with Muslim fundamentalism."

Crisis in S. Africa

Quit, Botha told

By Jack Reed

JOHANNESBURG. (UPI): The pressure building on President Pieter Botha to step down is propelling the white-minority government to come to grips with racial reform, although the black majority may understandably regard it as just another political game.

Botha returned to office yesterday after recovering from a stroke in January, facing a ruling party that has staged what amounts to a palace coup — a unanimous decision that after enduring a decade of his strong-arm tactics it doesn't like him any more and never really has.

It is unclear how he will respond to the call by the ruling National Party for him to resign the presidency and be succeeded by party leader Frederik de Klerk.

Fighting back with the enormous powers of the presidency would not be surprising but, concerned about his lasting image with the public, he may also want to settle the crisis gracefully.

De Klerk rose from a cabinet blindly loyal to the President when Botha surrendered leadership of the party two weeks after suffering his stroke.

Reform

After being elected party leader, de Klerk advocated reviving the programme of racial reform that Botha himself had launched but which ground to a halt in recent years because of right-wing opposition.

Botha's government has failed to deal with demands to lift a nationwide state of emergency or to release imprisoned black leader Nelson Mandela. At the opposite end of the spectrum, it is unable to respond to right-wing demands for strict enforcement of residential segregation.

The black daily newspaper Sowetan reflected the mood for change in the country in an editorial Tuesday, saying: "A new man... would be forced to do new things."

Vote

Until a few years ago, few white Afrikaners, the Dutch-descended people who dominate the white community, would accept that South African blacks would have the vote one day.

Today, the likelihood is accepted by many of those same Afrikaners. And with their own Dutch Reformed Church now openly committed to fighting apartheid, the country's system of legalized segregation, the main questions are how unfettered the black vote will be and how soon it will happen.

No prominent National Party politician, however, is calling for a system of one-man-one-vote that would likely lead to black rule, the key demand of the majority. Nevertheless, a government appointed judicial commission Saturday recommended such a system be enshrined in a national bill of rights.

Control

De Klerk has appealed for "a new South Africa" where no single group dominates another, a formula that could allow whites to maintain control of the central government.

He affirmed the National Party's commitment to guaranteeing security for the country's five million whites, but also acknowledged a commitment to equal rights for the country's 27 million blacks. He provided no details, however, on how he would walk such a fine line.



Botha: pressure

BUSINESS & FINANCE

US trade deficit shrinks to \$9.49b

WASHINGTON, March 15. (AP) The US merchandise trade deficit shrank to \$9.49 billion in January, as the nation posted a rare trade surplus with Western Europe and the imbalance with Japan declined to its lowest point in almost four years, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said the sharp 13.7 per cent improvement in the overall trade deficit, the best showing since October, reflected a 6.9 per cent drop in imports that was enough to offset a 4.3 per cent decline in US export sales.

The monthly improvement was better than many analysts had been expecting, although they cautioned against reading too much into a one-month swing in the figures.

Deficit

The \$9.49-billion January deficit would translate into an annual imbalance of \$114 billion, compared with a deficit for all of 1988 of \$119.76 billion.

While that would represent a small improvement, many economists are not looking for any change in the nation's trade performance this year.

They contend that the trade deficit has stalled out at a very high level, a forecast that would spell bad news for President George Bush's administration, which hopes an aggressive market-opening strategy will boost US export sales.

The January deficit reflected a rare surplus of \$46.5 million with Western Europe, the first trade surplus there since September 1983.

Dropped

The trade deficit with Japan dropped to \$3.5 billion. While this was, as usual, the highest imbalance the United States had with any country, it was the lowest deficit with Japan since February 1985.

The \$9.49-billion January trade imbalance followed a \$10.99-billion in December and was the smallest imbalance since \$8.78 billion in October.

Starting with the January report, the government is removing the cost of shipping and insurance from the import totals, a book-keeping change that has the effect of lowering each month's trade deficit by about \$1.5 billion.

With shipping and insurance charges included, the 1988 merchandise trade deficit was \$137.3 billion and with those costs removed the deficit totalled \$118.7 billion.

The January performance reflected a 6.9 per cent decline in exports, which fell to a seasonally adjusted \$37.29 billion.

The smaller import figure reflected declines in sales of foreign consumer goods, down \$1.4 billion, and a drop in sales of foreign cars, down \$700 million.

US imports of oil were up sharply in January, rising 6.1 per cent to \$3.5 billion, reflecting higher petroleum prices. The price per barrel jumped to \$14.46 from \$13.10 in December, while the number of barrels fell to 7.8 million barrels per day from 8.1 million barrels in December.

US export sales fell 4.3 per cent to \$27.8 billion, down from a record \$29.06 billion in December.

The drop reflected declines in sales of capital goods, down \$1.2 billion, and industrial supplies, which fell \$600 million.

Rapid steps needed to ease food shortages

Farm reform proposed

MOSCOW, March 15. (AP)

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev asked the Communist Party's top policy-making body today to take rapid steps to ease chronic food shortages in the country, but indicated total elimination of the problem would take years.

The 300-member Central Committee today opened a two-day meeting largely devoted to agricultural reform. Before Gorbachev began the discussion on farm policy, the official Tass news agency said, the Central Committee moved to formally elect its top leaders, including Gorbachev, to the nation's new parliament.

The Communist Party is one of 30 organisations with the power to choose one-third of the 2,250 representatives in the new Congress of People's deputies. Despite the publicity touting this campaign as the Soviet Union's first multi-candidate election, the Communist Party chose to nominate just 100 people for its 100 seats. Party members had suggested more than 31,000 names.

The deputies elected by the party in a secret ballot include most members of the 12-man ruling Politburo, 26 workers and seven collective farmers, Tass reported.

The food problem is likely to produce far more discussion at the Central Committee, which since the party's coming to power in 1917 has been the main agricultural policy-making body. Gorbachev, apparently, disagrees with the party's long-standing policy of collectivisation, which he has called the "main problem" in Soviet agriculture.

In several recent speeches, Gorbachev has sketched a plan to lease state-owned fields to farmers, making them "masters of the land," and providing an incentive to produce more.

Instead, Ligachev has emphasised collective farming — the traditional system that has left Soviet consumers standing in line for meat and vegetables.

Tass said Gorbachev "set the task, already in the nearest future, of easing the acute food problem. And in the first half of the '90s, to guarantee the production of agricultural products in sufficient quantity and variety for stable and healthy living."

Tass did not immediately provide details. But Gorbachev's reported wording indicated the Kremlin leadership was resigned to continuing food shortages in the next several years.

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Dollar intervention as gold

LONDON, March 15. (Reuters)

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European oil prices jump to 15-month highs

LONDON, March 15. (Reuters) Oil prices surged to 15-month highs today in Europe after reports that Saudi Arabia, the world's largest exporter, planned further supply cuts.

The prices on the European free or "spot" market, a barometer of supply and demand, were also helped higher by news of lower US oil stocks.

The API's (American Petroleum Institute stock figures) just boosted an already strong market, "one European trader said, referring to the US data issued yesterday.

Brent blend crude from Britain's North Sea, the most widely traded internationally, leapt to around \$17.60 a barrel for May delivery, its highest since December 1987.

Brent prices fell to two-year lows of \$11 last October before the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed to implement output curbs from the start of this year.

Prices have been supported by these cuts and a promise of reciprocal cuts from exporting nations outside the group.

Already higher crude prices have been reflected in pump prices on garage forecourts. Retailers say petrol prices are likely to rise further with the approach of the Easter "driving season" when European and North American motorists traditionally begin to use their cars more as spring sets in.

Yesterday, news that Norway's Ekofisk oilfield complex had closed temporarily following a small fire sparked off the rally. The field resumed production today, its operator said.

Saudi Arabia told Japanese buyers yesterday it would slash their crude supplies by 30 per cent in April reflecting OPEC's determination to rein in output to 18.5 million barrels daily for the first half of this year, traders said.

Industry sources in Tokyo said today that Saudi Arabia also planned to restrict supplies to the United States and Europe. They declined to detail the extent of the cuts.

Egypt boosts oil prices

CAIRO, March 15. (Reuters) Egypt raised its crude oil prices today for the second time this month due to firm world markets.

Hammad Ayoub, the Oil Ministry's foreign sales director, announced the new increase after a meeting of the government's pricing committee.

The prices for March 16-31 will be \$16.50 a barrel for the top-grade Gulf of Suez blend; \$15.65 a barrel for Belmar; \$14.50 a barrel for Ras Badran; and \$14.20 a barrel for Ras Ghareb.

EFTA seeks to boost close ties with EEC

Common strategy needed

OSLO, March 15. (Reuters)

Leaders of the six-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA) called today for close institutional ties with the European Economic Community, saying they wanted to be part of the EEC's barrier-free internal market.

The leaders from Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Switzerland, Finland and Austria ended a two-day summit in agreement on the need to build a more structured EFTA which could speak to the EEC with one voice.

Partner

"We envisage that negotiations would lead to the fullest possible realisation of free movement of goods, services, capital and persons, with the aims of creating a dynamic and homogeneous European space," the summit communiqué said.

The summit, only the fifth since EFTA was formed nearly 30 years ago, was called to work

out a common strategy as the EEC single market after 1992 approaches.

EFTA is the EEC's major trading partner although in terms of population it is only a tenth the size of the community.

"We are ready to explore various options and ways and means to strengthen the institutional links between the EFTA states and the EEC. We would not exclude any option from the scope of our future dialogue with the EEC," the communiqué said.

Officials close to the talks said the fact that the communiqué had not ruled out any option, including an EEC-EFTA customs union, was significant in the light of stated differences between some EFTA members.

Swiss President Jean-Pascal Delamuraz strongly denied at a news conference that this country had been unwilling to strengthen EFTA because it feared losing national autonomy.

But we have said that, in the present situation, a supra-national EFTA is not possible," he said. He added that this would exclude a full customs union with the EEC.

"But there are other ways ... it would be wrong to exclude any aspects from our thinking. We (EFTA) have made no decisions," he said.

Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, who wants a customs union and greater authority for EFTA, praised Swiss commitment to EFTA at the news conference, in a public show of unity.

The leaders saw EFTA adding its resources to a common research and development effort to make European industry more competitive.

They also suggested pooling resources with the EEC to protect the environment and expanding co-operation in education.

Delors under fire

Fortress America may be coming: Young

WASHINGTON, March 15. (Reuters) Britain's Secretary of State for Trade and Industry today disputed US charges the European Economic Community would close its borders to imports and said signs for protectionism were more evident in the United States.

"I find more actual evidence of a fortress America than I do of a fortress Europe," the secretary, Lord Young, said in a speech to the National Press Club.

Integration

He said such evidence includes congressional attempts to impose new disclosure requirements on foreign investment and a 1988 trade bill provision requiring the United States to negotiate remedies for persistent bilateral trade imbalances.

On the other hand, Young said, the United States has little

to fear from the planned economic integration of the European Economic Community (EEC), which is scheduled for 1992.

US officials have said the integration could lead to a "fortress Europe" mentality in which severe barriers were erected to imports into the EEC.

"Europe is far more dependent upon exports than the (United) States, and we would be the very first to suffer if we acted at all in protectionist manner," Young said.

For example, he said, the EEC would be unwise to set manufacturing and other standards to exclude non-EEC businesses, as some have feared.

Standards that differed radically from those used elsewhere in the world would cripple EEC manufacturers' ability to export, he said.

He criticised EEC President Jacques Delors for proposing broader concepts of 1992 unification. He said such ideas were "flights of fancy" which disrupted the process of implementation of the original 1992 plan.

"What we should do first is to get 1992 into being," Young said.

Once legitimate EEC-wide standards were in place, it would be easier for US exporters to sell to the EEC as a single market, he said.

EEC exports as a share of gross domestic product are three times greater than US exports, he said.

Young said the 1992 integration would be limited to the removal of non-tariff trade barriers within the community and was unlikely to include sweeping measures such as political integration or a single currency.

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Budget focuses on easing poverty

COLOMBO, March 15. (Reuters)

A plan to ease poverty in Sri Lanka was the focus of 1989 government budget estimates presented in Parliament today.

Parliament officials said Finance Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, who presented the estimates, will explain to Parliament tomorrow how he plans to finance spending in 1989.

According to the estimates, a poverty alleviation programme costing Rs10 billion (\$300 million) will be the biggest item of spending.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa promised while campaigning for a presidential election he won last December to ease poverty by giving Rs2,500 (\$75) a month for two years to 1.5 million poor families.

Spending on defence, covering campaigns against Tamil separatist guerrillas and left-wing Sinhalese rebels, is estimated at Rs8 billion (\$242 million).

The whole budget is estimated at Rs107 billion (\$3.1 billion), with revenues of Rs55 billion (\$1.6 billion), and a deficit of Rs52 billion (\$1.5 billion).

In 1988, the budget rose by Rs5 billion (\$150 million) from an estimated Rs5 billion (\$25 billion) because of increased government spending.

The deficit rose to Rs41 billion (\$1.2 billion) from an estimated Rs36 billion (\$1 billion).

Inflation in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries (OECD) rose by 0.5 per cent in January from 0.2 per cent in December, according to figures just released by the organisation.

Among the leading industrialised countries, Japan was the only one to register a deceleration with consumer prices declining by 0.3 per cent for the third consecutive month, while inflation accelerated to 1.1 per cent in Germany, 0.8 per cent in Italy, 0.5 per cent in the United States and 0.4 per cent in France.

Inflation in OECD rises

PARIS, March 15. (KUNA)

Inflation in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries (OECD) rose by 0.5 per cent in January from 0.2 per cent in December, according to figures just released by the organisation.

Among the leading industrialised countries, Japan was the only one to register a deceleration with consumer prices declining by 0.3 per cent for the third consecutive month, while inflation accelerated to 1.1 per cent in Germany, 0.8 per cent in Italy, 0.5 per cent in the United States and 0.4 per cent in France.

The 16-member French delegation represents companies dealing in foodstuffs, fertilizers, agricultural products, chemicals, aircraft, satellites, office furniture, building materials and transport. It also includes French bank executives.

The delegation has invited the Dubai chamber to send one to France.

Homelessness in UK at all-time high

LONDON, March 15. (KUNA)

Homelessness in Britain has reached an all-time high, according to the latest figures released by the UK Department of the Environment.

The statistics showed that in 1988, 116,060 households in England were accepted as homeless — an increase of three per cent over the previous year.

But according to the housing charity, shelter, the figures were even greater if local authorities turning down more people as "intentionally homeless."

The figures also indicated that 30,100 households were placed in temporary accommodation, a year-on-year increase of 22 per cent.

MAR Productions Regrets to announce that the drama 'Naxibacho Diva Palaula' (Directed by Prem Kumar) is postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.

It will now be held at Indian Arts Circle, Funchal, on May 18 & 19, 1989.

Any inconvenience caused is regretted.

Chinese Exhibition

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General Motors Executives visit Kuwait



John Rhamo, Vice-President, General Motors, arrived in Kuwait today to hold meetings with the Kuwait GM dealers Yusuf Ahmad Alghamdi & Sons W.L.L. and Mohammad Saleh & Reza Yusuf Behbani.

Mr Rhamo, recently appointed to the position responsible for GM International Export, African and Middle East operations, has been with the company for over

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 16-17, 1989

International Bond Highlights

AMSTERDAM. An agreement is near on a much-debated capital increase of between 20 and 25 billion dollars over the next four years for the Inter-American Development Bank, IADB president Enrique Iglesias said. (XLF 1526)

London. Teylin Ltd has launched a 300 mln dir par priced equity warrant bond due March 30, 1993 with an indicated coupon of 4-1/2 pct, lead manager Dalwa Europe Ltd said. (XAL 1016)

London. Sumitomo Metal International Finance Ltd is issuing a 100 mln dir Eurobond due April 21, 1992 paying a coupon of 10-3/4 pct and priced at 101.20, lead manager Dalwa Europe said. (XAL 1122)

London. Oesterreichische Landerbank AG is issuing a 60 billion yen callable Eurobond due March 23, 1999 paying a coupon of 5.55 pct and priced at 102 pct, lead manager Salomon Brothers International said. (XLF 1541)

Zurich. The Central Bank of Switzerland is issuing a 500 mln Swiss franc, two year 100 issue of convertible notes and bonds has been indicated at 1/2 pct with par pricing, Nomura Bank (Switzerland) Ltd said. (XKX 0333)

Paris. French bank Caisse Nationale de Credit Agricole said it was launching a two billion franc domestic bond, split into two fixed-rate tranches. (XLF 1527)

Cape Town. South Africa announced that financial institutions would no longer be required to invest large parts of their portfolios in government-issued gilts. (XLR 1245)

London. Sparakassen SDS is issuing a 100 mln dir Eurobond due March 22, 1999 paying a coupon of 10-5/8 pct and priced at 102.00, lead manager Drexel Burnham Lambert Securities Ltd said. (XLF 1547)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 13 12-3/4	13 12-7/8	13 12-7/8
FF 5.80/85	6.10/20	6.40/50
PAR 8-1/16/6X6	8-7/16 9/16	8-13/16 15/16
ZUR 4-7/8 5-1/8	5-1/4 5-1/2	5-1/2 5-3/4
BRX 8.50	8.00 1/16	8-1/4 5/16
ROM 12-7/8 13-3/8	13 1-1/2	13-1/4 13-5/8
AMS 5.60/81	6.60/70	6.78/88
TOK 3.28/32 30/32	4.20/32 28/32	4.23/32 25/32
ECU 8.12 8.37	8.43 8.56	8.68 8.81

Interest Rates

Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	9-1/16	9-9/16
3 months	9-1/16	9-9/16
6 months	9-3/16	9-5/8
1 year	9-3/16	9-11/16

BOMBAY

PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	CANSHARE	175	--	--	GRASIM	99.50	100.50	100	
ACC	293	301	297	CEN ENKA	2640	2630	2660	GREAT E	34.75	35.15	34.75
ALN CHEN	--	--	--	COLGATE	1685	1690	1710	GSFC	151.25	151.25	157.50
ALW NIS	--	--	--	CROWN GR	337.50	338.75	337.50	GUJ ALKL	--	--	--
ARI FAR	--	--	--	DCX	--	775	800	GUJ HEAVY	12.50	11	12
ASHOK LEY	69	68	69	DEEP FERT	10.50	9.50	10.50	HERO HONDA	32	30.50	31
ASTA PAINT	217.50	220	220	DUNLOP	36	35.50	35.50	HIND CIBA	950	950	970
ATLAS COP	46	45	46	EI HOTELS	56	55	56	HIND COCOA	108.75	108	110
AUTO CORP	70	75	74	ESORTS	56	55	56	HIND LEV	78.50	78	78.50
AUTO CORP	70	75	74	ESORTS	63	62.50	64	HIND MOTOR	34.75	34.50	36
BAJAJ AUTO	382.50	385	385	ESKAYEY	137.50	138.75	136.25	HINDALCO	257.50	260	257
BAR RAYON	355	355	352.50	ESSAR SPG	21.50	21.50	21.75	HOECHST	705	710	710
BE BOND	127	126	131	FOOD SPL	--	--	--	HIND ORG	29	29	28
BLOM PLAST	--	--	--	FORBES	64	61	59	HIND RAYON	86	86	87
BON DYE	133.50	136.50	134	GAR POLY	78.75	76.25	78.75	HINDROL	300	301.25	302.50
BSE-INDEX	353.53	--	348.04	GLINDIA	91	90	93.50	INGERSOLL	360	355	365
BURR-MEL	190	185	190	GNFC	47	46.50	47	ITC	59	58	60

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR	CLSE
AGC	213.5	214.0
ALFA ROMEO	177.0	177.0
ALFA ROMEO	184.0	183.0
ALFA ROMEO	289.9	288.3
ALFA ROMEO	299.5	297.5
ALFA ROMEO	359.0	356.0
ALFA ROMEO	369.0	368.0
ALFA ROMEO	448.0	449.0
ALFA ROMEO	491.0	482.0
ALFA ROMEO	526.5	522.8
ALFA ROMEO	244.8	241.0
ALFA ROMEO	243.5	244.0
ALFA ROMEO	674.5	672.0
ALFA ROMEO	514.0	513.5
ALFA ROMEO	485.0	488.0
ALFA ROMEO	312.3	310.5
ALFA ROMEO	169.3	169.5
ALFA ROMEO	560.41	558.76
ALFA ROMEO	334.15	332.3
ALFA ROMEO	392.15	398.0
ALFA ROMEO	439.5	442.0
ALFA ROMEO	299.7	298.5
ALFA ROMEO	241.8	241.8
ALFA ROMEO	227.0	225.0
ALFA ROMEO	470.0	469.0
ALFA ROMEO	210.5	208.5
ALFA ROMEO	425.0	427.0
ALFA ROMEO	419.0	418.5
ALFA ROMEO	180.0	181.7
ALFA ROMEO	160.0	162.5
ALFA ROMEO	796.0	796.0
ALFA ROMEO	162.5	163.0
ALFA ROMEO	260.0	260.3
ALFA ROMEO	231.5	230.0
ALFA ROMEO	536.0	536.0
ALFA ROMEO	402.0	403.5
ALFA ROMEO	296.0	299.5
ALFA ROMEO	44.0	44.00
ALFA ROMEO	678.0	664.0
ALFA ROMEO	719.0	720.0
ALFA ROMEO	252.0	254.5
ALFA ROMEO	285.5	285.0
ALFA ROMEO	469.0	463.0
ALFA ROMEO	251.0	251.0
ALFA ROMEO	220.0	219.5
ALFA ROMEO	324.0	333.0
ALFA ROMEO	612.5	613.5
ALFA ROMEO	299.0	299.8
ALFA ROMEO	538.0	531.5
ALFA ROMEO	232.0	230.3
ALFA ROMEO	351.0	355.0
ALFA ROMEO	291.5	290.5
ALFA ROMEO	170.0	169.5
ALFA ROMEO	352.5	352.2

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST PR	CLSE
C H TUNNEL	15.60	15.80
CHINA GAS	10.30	10.00
CHINA GAS	19.10	19.02
CHINA L-P	14.00	13.80
CHINA MOTOR	30.75	29.70
COSMO PROP	3.60	3.60
EVEREST IND	3.40	3.32
FAR EAST C	.96	.94
GEN ORIENT	0	44.00
H C DEVELOP	9.85	9.60
H S INDEX	95.91	94.79
HANG LUNG	6.30	6.15
HANG SENG	32.00	31.75
HAW PAR BR	12.00	12.00
HK ELEC CO	7.50	7.35
HK KOWLOON	11.00	10.70
HK LAND CO	11.40	11.10
HK SHAN BK	7.45	7.25
HK SHAN HT	6.35	6.40
HK TELE CO	5.40	5.35
HUTCH WHAM	10.60	10.30
IND EO PAC	11.50	11.80
JARDINE N	20.10	19.40
KOWLOON N	9.45	9.35
NEW WORLD	15.10	14.80
PAUL Y CON	1.55	1.50
REALTY DEV	7.50	7.50
S H K CO	2.80	2.67
S H K PROP	14.60	14.00
STME DARY	3.12	3.07
STELLUX WFG	3.37	3.30
SWIRE PAC	21.50	21.40
T V B CO	1.29	1.28
TAI CHEUNG	5.70	5.50
UNION BANK	1.34	1.83
WORLD MARD	0	7.25
WORLD MARI	0	1.15
WORLD INTL	4.95	4.85

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST PR	CLSE	STOCK	LAST PR	CLSE
AJINOMOTO	2590	2580	MITSUBI CR	1530	1510
AKAI ELEC	702	704	MITSUBI EL	1090	1060
AKAI ELEC	1430	1400	MITSUBI HY	1110	1090
ASAHI GLS	2310	2090	MITSUBI-DO	1170	1160
ASAHI OPT	874	858	MITSUBISHI	2290	2270
BANK TOKYO	1700	1700	MITSUBISHI	980	981
BRIDGESTON	1400	1350	NISSAN CHMT	1230	1180
CANON	1580	1490	NISSAN SEC	1950	1920
CASIO COMP	1370	1340	NIP ELEC	1800	1780
CHUGA PHM	1470	1470	NIP KOKAN	928	912
CITIZEN W	975	970	NIP OIL	1710	1660
D-ICHI KAN	3520	3520	NIP STEEL	930	914
DAI NIP IK	886	890	NIP YUSEN	922	902
DAI NIP PT	2340	2320	NIS MOTOR	1490	1440
DAI NIP SE	971	975	NOMURA SEC	3600	3460
DAI NIP TO	931	931	OHBA CO	934	925
DAICEL	920	920	OLYMPUS	1190	1180
DAIMON	2010	2020	PENTA OCH	1410	1380
DAIMON SEC	2390	2340	PIONEER	3050	3040
DAIWA SEC	1900	1820	REDAUX	970	974
DAIWA SEC	1950	1950	RICOH	1190	1160
DAIWA SEC	1460	1440	SANKYO	2230	2160
DAIWA SEC	3630	3560	SANKYO ELEC	891	900
DAIWA SEC	3240	3200	SEIYU ST	2150	2150
DAIWA SEC	1630	1640	SEKISUI PB	1820	1740
DAIWA SEC	1990	1990	SHARP	1260	1210
DAIWA SEC	1600	1570	SHISEIDO	1660	1660
DAIWA SEC	1960	1960	SUNY	6910	6840
DAIWA SEC	2320	2350	SUMITOMO	1400	1340
DAIWA SEC	3600	3590	TAISEI	1800	1800
JAP SUN RU	1260	1250	TAISHO MRN	1380	1370
JAPAN AIR	15500	15500	TAKEIDA CH	2300	2330
JAPAN MET	979	995	TEIJIN	840	840
KAJIMA	2280	2260	TOKI NEW IC	432.77	407.52
KANSAI EL	4770	4810	TOKYO MRN	2150	2160
KAO SOAP	1580	1580	TOKYO ELEC	1320	1310
KAWASAKI H	950	935	TOKYO GAS	1170	1160
KAWASAKI S	934	934	TOKYO POKR	6590	6510
KIRIN BREW	1810	1820	TORAY IND	923	923
KOMATSU	1230	1200	TOSHIBA EL	1220	1180
KUBOTA LTD	1160	1130	TOTO	2080	1960
KYOCERA	4600	4580	TOYO KKOY	870	858
MAKITA EL	1530	1520	TOYOTA MOT	2560	2530
MARUI	2610	2630	YAMAHATA	1400	1390
MATSUDA EI	2460	2400	YAMAMOTO	1950	1850
MATSUDA EL	0	2660	YAMAMOTO	3540	3570
MEIJI SEIK	966	971	YAMAZAKI	1380	1370

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS SURGE, NIKKEI ENDS ABOVE 32,000

TOKYO, MARCH 15, REUTER - SHARE PRICES SURGED IN ACTIVE, BROAD-BASED TRADE. SOME LATE BUYING BROUGHT THE KEY NIKKEI INDEX TO END ABOVE 32,000 FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE MARCH 3. INVESTORS WERE ENCOURAGED BY TUESDAY'S NEWS OF AN UNEXPECTED 0.4 PCT FALL IN U.S. FEBRUARY RETAIL SALES, BROKERS SAID. THE NEWS EASED CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE HIGHER U.S. INFLATION AND INTEREST RATES. THIS SENT THE DOLLAR BACK UNDER THE PSYCHOLOGICAL 130-YEN LEVEL IN NEW YORK, WHICH IN TURN LESSENED CONCERN OVER HIGHER RATES HERE, BROKERS SAID. THE NIKKEI INDEX SURGED 376.13 POINTS, OR 1.19 PCT, TO CLOSE AT 32,100.48.

THIS IS THE SECOND BIGGEST ONE-DAY GAIN THIS YEAR. THE 225-SHARE NIKKEI ROSE 468.85 POINTS ON JANUARY 9. IT ENDED WITH A 171.39-POINT GAIN ON TUESDAY.

"IT SEEMS MORE INTEREST RATES MAY HAVE SETTLED DOWN," SAID TOSHITSUGU OGIMURA, PERMANENT ADVISER AT TOYO SECURITIES CO LTD.

"THE MARKET HAS GONE THROUGH A CORRECTION, AND NOW IT IS TIME TO RALLY AGAIN," HE SAID.

THE MARKET HAS BEEN CORRECTING FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS AFTER THE U.S. RAISED ITS DISCOUNT RATE A HALF-POINT TO SEVEN PCT ON FEBRUARY 24.

SOME 100 POINTS OF THE NIKKEI'S GAIN WAS LIKELY DUE TO ARBITRAGE OF SELLING FUTURES AND BUYING UNDERLYING CASH STOCKS JUST BEFORE THE CLOSE, SAID A FUTURES TRADER AT A MAJOR JAPANESE SECURITIES FIRM.

THE BROADER FIRST SECTION INDEX, OR TOPIX, SOARED 25.25 POINTS TO 2,432.77, AGAINST A 14.63-POINT GAIN ON TUESDAY.

GAINS IN THE BROAD MARKET WERE NOT AS PROMINENT DUE TO STRONG FUTURES-RELATED BUYING, DECLINED LEAD FALLS BY EIGHT TO FIVE WITH 551 ISSUES HIGHER, 341 LOWER AND 198 UNCHANGED.

TURNOVER WAS AN ACTIVE 1.2 BILLION SHARES AGAINST 800 MLN ON TUESDAY.

Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, MARCH 15, REUTER - HONG KONG STOCKS FOLLOWED TOKYO'S SURGE TO FINISH STRONGER IN THE HIGHEST TURNOVER FOR A MONTH, BROKERS SAID.

"WE'VE HAD SOME GOOD COMPANY RESULTS AND TOKYO WAS VERY STRONG SO THE FUND MANAGERS WHO HAVE BEEN SITTING ON LARGE CASH POSITIONS DECIDED TO PUT SOME IN THE MARKET," A BROKER SAID.

THE HANG SENG INDEX JUMPED 61.12 POINTS TO 3,095.91 AND THE HONG KONG INDEX ADDED 42.31 TO 2,048.59.

TURNOVER SURGED TO 2.14 BILLION H.K. DLRS AGAINST 1.33 BILLION ON TUESDAY FOR THE HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE FEBRUARY 10.

AMMAN

	OPNG	CLSE	JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50	0.50
			JOR NATIONAL BANK		
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY			JOR PAPER CARDBRGS	3.75	3.60
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.			JOR PHOSPHATE MINS		
ARAB BANK			JOR PIPES MANUFACT		
ARAB CHEMICAL DTR			JOR PRESS/PUBLIS.	1.79	1.72
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	2.44	2.41	JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25	4.60
ARAB INSURANCE			JOR ROCK WOOL IND.		
ARAB INT. INV/TRAN.	0.57	0.57	JOR SECURIT CORP	1.12	1.11
ARAB INT. UNION INS	1.25	1.23	JOR SELPHO CHEM.		
ARAB INTER-HOTELS			JOR WOOD INDUSTRY		
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK	2.35	2.35	JOR WORSTED MLL	5.60	5.40
ARAB PAPER COM/TRD	0.43	0.45	JOR. KUMAIT AGR	0.97	0.95
ARAB PHARMA/MAMF.			JOR. PETROLEUM REF		
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM			JOR. FRENCH INS.	5.45	5.45
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65	JOR. INV. FIN. CORP	2.40	2.45
BANK OF JORDAN	15.35	15.20	JORDAN DAIRY		
BEIT AL-NAL/BEITNA			JORDAN GULF BANK		
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95	JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94	0.95
CATRO AMMAN BANK	31.00	31.00	JORDAN INSURANCE		
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05	1.25	JORDAN ISLAMIC BNK		
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS			JORDAN KUMAIT BANK	1.50	1.52
DAR ALDAMA DV/INV.			JORDAN TANNING	2.01	2.05
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.			LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.74	0.75
FINANCE/CREDIT/COO	0.75	0.71	MACH/EDU/RENT/MAIN	0.79	0.79
GARAGE OWNERS OFC	4.55	4.60	MAS INDUSTRIES	0.69	0.73
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63	MID EAST EXCHANGE	1.17	1.11
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.35	1.27	MIDDEL EAST HOTEL	0.80	0.80
GENERAL MINING	2.15	2.20	MIDDEL EAST INS	2.00	1.98
HIMEN MINERALS	0.75	0.75	MINERALS RESEARCH	0.74	0.75
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44	1.44	NAT. FIN. INVEST CO	2.00	1.98
IND./MATCH JEMCO			NAT/CABEL/VIRE/WF		
INDSTR/DEVLPT BNK	1.70	1.64	NATIONAL AHRIA INS	1.35	1.40
INDSTR/COMM/AGR.	1.60	1.66	NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.96	0.96
INDSTR/INVEST.	0.75	0.75	NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.95	0.93
INTERN.COM/INV	0.13	0.13	NATIONAL STEEL		
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.90	0.90	ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25	0.28
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64	PETRA BANK	2.60	2.60
JEMCO/PETRI/CHX	0.79	0.80	PETRA JOR. INS.	0.35	0.35
J-TOUR-SZ COMPLEX	1.06	1.09	RAJAH DEVELOP. INS.	1.10	1.11
JERUSALEM INS.	1.26	1.29	RAJIA INDUSTRIAL	1.82	1.91
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	20.00	19.50	REAL ESTATE INV.		
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR			SHIPPING LINES		
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.05	25.05	SPINNING WEAVING		
JOR ELECTRIC POWER			THE HOUSING BANK	1.85	1.85
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22	UNITED INSURANCE	1.18	1.16
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY			UNIVERSAL CHEM.IND		
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.30	2.30	UNIVERSAL INS.	0.65	0.68
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.			WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	1.00	1.03
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20	YAMOUK INSURANCE	1.35	1.35

Growth to average 1.8pc per year

NATO-CIA report gloomy on Gorbachev reforms

BRUSSELS, March 15, (Reuters). Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev will be unable to bridge the Soviet Union's economic gap with the West by the year 2000 even if his reforms succeed, according to a NATO report made available yesterday.

The report, based on findings by the US Central Intelligence Agency, said at best, Soviet economic growth would average only 2.7 per cent annually up to the year 2000.

It said bad weather could jeopardise the success of Gorbachev's entire economic restructuring programme.

"Bad luck with the weather... could trigger an agricultural failure severe enough to exacerbate current consumer dissatisfaction and threaten the success of Gorbachev's reform effort," the report said.

Losses
Three model scenarios — "Gorbachev wins," "Gorbachev loses" and "Gorbachev doesn't matter" — had been used in the CIA analysis of the Soviet leader's reform programme from 1986 to 2000, the report said.

Soviet GNP (gross national product) growth would not exceed 2.7 per cent a year in the years 1986-2000 in any of the scenarios, said the report, entitled "Long term projections for the Soviet economy."

Findings
"Even this rate would only be achieved if Gorbachev's reforms after a period of initial disruption meet with complete success and favourable weather conditions sustain farm output," it added.

The findings compared with official Soviet growth targets of



Mikhail Gorbachev

four to five per cent, the report said.

The "Gorbachev wins" scenario foresees growth rising to nearly three per cent per year throughout the 1990s after a few years of disruption which would hamper growth.

The report said some real progress could be expected "particularly if 'perestroika' (restructuring) continues to be implemented without major political backfiring." But this was likely to be slow.

"Even if 'Gorbachev wins,' the gains from developing or acquiring and using new technology and raising labour motivations and skills are not likely to come

quickly enough or in doses necessary to close the technological gap with the West during the rest of this century," it added.

Disruption

Under the "Gorbachev loses" scenario, in which a period of disruption would be followed by bureaucratic resistance to reforms and political conflict in the Kremlin, growth would be held at an average of only 1.7 per cent.

In the final scenario, in which reforms would be watered down or not implemented vigorously enough, growth would average 1.8 per cent per year, the report said.

Nabisco chief faces big challenges

'Extremely lucrative offer'

NEW YORK, March 15, (Reuters). Louis Gerstner Jr. the marketing wizard who takes charge at RJR Nabisco Inc. next month, faces the tough job of cutting the firm's massive debt load while managing a stable of well-known consumer products.

Gerstner, who has been president and second-in-command at the financial services giant American Express Co., could be the right man for the job despite his lack of experience in the food or tobacco industries, analysts said today.

The consumer products giant was bought last month by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Co. for \$25 billion, in the largest takeover on record.

The departure of chief executive F. Ross Johnson, who had himself attempted a takeover of RJR, set off a major corporate headhunt. Gerstner was named to the post on Monday.

Skills
The new owners of the Atlanta-based company that makes Winston, Salem and Camel cigarettes, as well as Oreos, shredded wheat and Fig Newtons, lured Gerstner with what was said to be an extremely

lucrative offer. Several analysts said he was attracted by the money and the challenge of heading a major corporation.

Gerstner, 47, graduated from Harvard Business School and worked for the prestigious consulting firm McKinsey and Co. before joining American Express. He is well-known for his strong marketing and managing skills.

"He's a superb marketer and a very good administrator," said tobacco analyst Ronald Morrow of Smith Barney, Harris Upham.

Gerstner's first job will be overseeing massive asset sales, likely to total \$7 billion to eight billion to cut RJR's debt taken on the buyout, analysts said.

The units most likely to be sold include Del Monte and Planters, producers of food and snacks, and the Fleischmann's and Blue Bonnet Margarine brands, they said.

The company, the 19th largest US industrial concern, is lumbering under its debt at a time when the US cigarette industry is in decline due to changing consumer attitudes.

Only two weeks ago RJR killed its much-ballyhooed

"smokeless cigarette" Premier, which analysts said cost \$200 million to develop and was projected to cost a total of \$1 billion if it had not been halted.

"That's the golden goose and you don't want to kill it," said Morrow regarding the tobacco business.

Debt

With interest payments of \$3 billion a year to pay off its takeover debt, RJR will have to take a new look at its capital improvements, including a \$6 billion, multi-year upgrading of its baking business.

But if it cuts too deeply RJR may be hard-pressed to keep up with competitors for super-market shelf-space.

Archival Philip Morris Cos Inc., which owns General Foods, last fall bought Kraft Inc. for \$13.1 billion. Strong competition from such foreign giants as Unilever PLC also points to the need for remaining competitive in an increasingly global market.

In the bakery business, pepperidge farm, a unit of Campbell Soup Co., and Keebler Co. are spending to upgrade plants and improve baking technology, a threat to Nabisco.

Saudis seek joint ventures with foreign firms

ABU DHABI, March 15, (UPI). Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said the kingdom was seeking joint ventures with foreign companies to market its crude and oil products abroad following its successful agreement with US giant Texaco Corp.

"There are negotiations with various parties in Europe and the Far East to enter into joint investments for marketing outside the kingdom," Nazer told a press conference in Saudi eastern city of Dhahran.

Nazer's remarks were carried today by the state-run Saudi Press Agency, SPA, monitored in Abu Dhabi.

"The kingdom's long-term strategy is based on finding a sort of integration in the oil industry that combined production and marketing," Nazer said. "Entering into partnerships is part of the process to implement this strategy."

Prices

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, currently produces about 4.5 million barrels a day according to an agreement by OPEC's 13 member-states to stabilise prices at \$18 a barrel.

Nazer did not name the companies involved in the negotiations, but Gulf-based oil indus-

try sources said these included the US Exxon Corp., Total and Elf Aquitaine in France, plus other unidentified firms with stakes in Japan, Indonesia and Spain.

In November, Saudi Arabia signed a \$300 million contract under which it bought half of Texaco's refineries in three American states — Texas, Louisiana and Delaware, and allowed the kingdom to market some 600,000 barrels of petroleum products a day in 23 American states.

The agency said Nazer was speaking after the first meeting of the board of directors of the Saudi Arabian Oil Company

(Saudi ARAMCO) which in November took over management and operations from ARAMCO, which was owned by the four US corps — Exxon, Mobil, Texaco and Chevron — in partnership with Saudi Arabia.

Markets

The board was appointed on Sunday to report to the kingdom's Supreme Petroleum Council, chaired by King Fahd Ibn Abdel Aziz as part of a three-year-old restructuring plan that gave more emphasis to downstream operations.

"The aim of forming the Supreme Council and the board

of directors for Saudi ARAMCO is to establish a strong petroleum industry that could be able to stand on its feet in the troubled markets," Nazer was quoted as saying.

He said the move would also cut operation costs and increase the company's profits.

Saudi Arabia's oil industry has been badly hit by lower oil prices and declining production levels in line with OPEC rules to stabilise the market.

According to the latest statistics by ARAMCO in late 1988, the kingdom's proven reserves were put at over 250 billion, about 25 per cent of the world's total.

Bush approves debt plan

Baker calls for more lending

WASHINGTON, March 15, (Reuters). President Bush gave his approval last night to Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's plan for tackling Third World debt.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

Bush's support for the policy of cutting the value of outstanding loans followed a meeting with Brady and members of the National Security Council, including National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and Secretary of State James Baker.

"The President met yesterday for an hour and 20 minutes to consider the Treasury Department's ideas for Third World debt reduction," Fitzwater said.

"The result is that the President fully supports the concepts and processes of debt

growth," he said.

Fitzwater declined to offer further details of the proposal, but said the views of the Federal Reserve Board "were sought and the Fed is supporting it."

The plan envisages the use of World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) money to induce banks to reduce the value of the loans they have made.

Mexico, which owes foreign creditors \$100 billion, and other major Latin debtors have been urging the Treasury for months to throw its weight behind debt reduction and abandon its three-year-old Baker plan of trying to get banks to extend new loans to spur growth in the region.

Brady publicly outlined his ideas last Friday, but had not given Bush a detailed version of the plan until the meeting at the

White House, Fitzwater said.

Baker told Congress yesterday that Brady's plan on Third World debt is a step in the right direction.

Baker was making his first public comment on proposals designed to succeed his own plan, which he put forward more than three years ago when he held the Treasury post. Baker's plan called for more lending to help debtor countries grow out of their troubles. Brady's would cut principal and interest payments on the Third World's \$1.2 trillion debt.

Baker was replying to criticism from Congressman David Obey, chairman of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations of the Appropriations Committee in the House of Representatives.

Sri Lanka to seek more foreign jobs for its youths

COLOMBO, March 15, (KUNA). Sri Lankan government plans to increase foreign employment opportunities for youths in a bid to curb the present youth unrest, officials said here today.

The officials at the state Labour Ministry said, Lankan diplomatic missions abroad have been requested to find more employment opportunities for Lankans.

The officials added, the government has identified that the remarkable high unemployment rate among the youth as a major reason for the swelling of 'subversive' — a term used to refer to the Sinhalese extremists — ranks.

Rate
Central officials estimated the unemployment rate at 20 per cent.

The Labour Ministry officials, who cannot be identified, said, they expect to send more Lankans, most of them to be youths, this year to Middle Eastern countries, where already the majority of the over 200,000 strong Lankan migrant work force is employed.

The officials said, the government will open skill training centres for those youth who wish to go abroad for employment purpose.

The Sri Lankan Army will assist in providing job training, the officials went on.

The Sinhalese subversives of the People's Liberation Front are waging a violent campaign against the Sri Lankan government since a peace pact with India was signed in 1987.

The pact was signed to end a rebellion by Tamil separatists fighting to carve out a state in the north and east for the island's 2.6 million minority Tamils.

Majority
Police officials early this week reported an escalation in the violence by the front which accuses the Lankan government of bartering the rights of the majority Sinhalese to Tamils through the pact.

Over 2,000 people, mostly supporters of political parties, were killed since the beginning of this year, the police officials reported.



BP smoke hood

The latest designed British Petroleum smoke hood (foreground) is displayed by the development team. The hood, which has gone through twelve design changes, is for escaping from fires and poisonous gases in confined spaces, for example in an aircraft. It has cost a total of £2 million and took two years to develop. (Reuters wirephoto).

UK hikes payments to 11 members of royal family

LONDON, March 15, (UPI). The British government increased payments to 11 members of the royal family yesterday by 4.5 per cent, well below inflation, bringing their annual income to £6,195,300 (\$10,655,916).

Queen Elizabeth II's allowance increased from £4.5 million (\$7.74 million) to £4.66 million (\$8.01 million).

Her second son, Prince Andrew, received the largest percentage increase, up £68,900 (\$118,500) to £155,400 (\$267,288). Buckingham Palace said the increase takes into account the office set up for him upon his marriage to the former Sarah Ferguson.

He also receives £21,000 (\$36,120) a year as a royal Navy lieutenant.

The conservative 4.5 per cent overall increase in Civil List payments, three points below inflation, "shows that the royal households are keeping a tight rein on their expenses. It's evident that we are getting increasing value for money," said Treasury spokesman Richard Evans.

The payments were announced as part of the new national budget for the year that begins in April.

The Civil List is provided in return for each monarch ceding income from the crown estates — a precedent set by George III in 1760 — and meets the operating expenses, about three-quarters of which are staff costs, of the official part of the royal household.

Other expenses, estimated at £28 million (\$48 million), a year, are met by the votes of various government departments — for example, maintenance of the royal yacht Britannia, train and airplane, travel on official duties, and upkeep of the Queen's official residence.

Ten of the Queen's closest relatives receive annuities.

Prince Charles and Princess Diana do not receive a civil list payment. They collect half the net revenue from the Duchy of Cornwall, an estate of land and buildings in South London and the west country. He gives the other half to the Treasury in lieu of income tax.

Balkan states open first economic meeting

ANKARA, March 15, (Reuters). Six Balkan countries today opened their first ministerial-level talks on economic and trade ties after decades of regional disputes.

The two-day meeting in Ankara brings together NATO members Turkey and Greece, Bulgaria and Romania from the Warsaw Pact, non-aligned Yugoslavia and communist Albania.

"Turkey believes in the existence of a basis for developing economic ties despite political and economic differences among Balkan countries," Turkish State Minister Yusuf Ozal told the meeting.

"Multi-faceted and bilateral ties between Balkan countries should be developed further to ensure an atmosphere of lasting peace, understanding and co-

operation."

No agenda was announced for the talks, which follow a first meeting of Balkan foreign ministers in Belgrade 13 months ago.

Albania's presence at the Belgrade talks, which had some success in easing regional tensions, was significant after decades of isolation.

"The ties of friendship imposed by the foreign ministers should reflect on all relations between Balkan countries," Greece's Deputy National Economy Minister, Yannis Papanastasiou, told reporters on his arrival in Ankara last evening.

The Bulgarian side is headed by Foreign Economic Relations Minister Andrei Lukanov. Albania by State Planning Commission chairman Niko Gjizari, Romania by Foreign Trade Minister Ioan Ungur and Yugoslavia

by Foreign Trade Minister Nenad Krekic.

Turkish officials said Ankara was likely to bring up at the talks changes that Bulgaria was trying to assimilate by force its ethnic Turkish Muslim minority of up to 1.5 million people.

Ankara and Athens, at odds over Cyprus and Aegean Sea rights, have also been sparring over the property and other rights of a 110,000-strong Turkish Muslim minority in Greece.

The two countries, whose bilateral trade volume was only \$164 million in the first 10 months of 1988, have expressed interest in developing tourist relations.

Gjizari said Albanian-Turkish trade volume, which stood at \$5.3 million in the first 10 months of 1988, was developing through the efforts of both countries.

Bush voices concern about homeless

WASHINGTON, March 15, (AP). President George Bush yesterday called homelessness "an affront to the American dream" and said he wants to help get "ragged and pathetic figures" off the streets of the nation's capital and urban America.

Addressing a legislative conference of the Independent Insurance Agents of America, Bush talked of riding in his limousine near the White House and seeing people "on the (heating) grate."

"It's a national shame," the President said in a speech that touched on initiatives he proposed to a joint session of Congress on Feb 9.

City officials estimate there are some 8,000 to 10,000 homeless in Washington although activists for the homeless have said they believe the figure ranges to 15,000.

Nationally, experts agree there are no reliable figures, although research shows that the level of homelessness can range from 300,000 to 600,000 on any given night.

In his pending blueprint for the budget year beginning Oct 1, Bush proposed \$644 million for a programme to find housing for the homeless. He also called for a \$50-million programme to assist volunteers and community organisations working with the homeless.

Nakasone should testify on scandal: LDP elders

TOKYO, March 15, (Reuters). The elders of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party have decided former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone should testify in a probe into the country's biggest political scandal, major newspapers said today.

LDP leaders decided at a meeting yesterday that Nakasone must answer questions on the scandal before parliament for the sake of the troubled party, the Yomiuri Shinbun and other papers reported.

Outcome

Nakasone, still a Member of Parliament, has denied any wrongdoing in connection with the shares-for-favours scandal and refused to testify before parliament.

Nakasone aides acknowledged that a meeting of LDP elders, including former Prime Ministers Takeo Fukuda and Zenko Suzuki, took place, but declined comment on its outcome.

The scandal, involving payments from the Recruit publishing and telecommunications conglomerate to more than 100 public figures, has touched almost every member of the LDP leadership and led to the resignation of three cabinet ministers.

Rating

Political analysts say Nakasone must submit to questioning or the LDP's hold on power will be further eroded.

The rating of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's administration has fallen to postwar lows in

popularity polls since the Recruit scandal blew up last July.

It has been alleged by opposition politicians and the press that Nakasone arranged the sale of a multimillion-dollar computer to Recruit by telecommunications giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone.

So far, 12 people have been arrested in the scandal. Parliament has been stalled since last Wednesday over opposition demands that Nakasone give testimony on any connection he may have had with the firm.

Major newspapers, quoting sources in the Tokyo prosecutor's office, reported today that Nakasone and his son Hirofumi, also a Member of Parliament, received cheques

from Recruit but returned them uncashed.

A Nakasone aide denied the report.

"I don't know where the report comes from," a Nakasone aide told Reuters by telephone. "There was never any such contact (with Recruit)."

The prosecutor's office declined comment on the report, which appeared in the Asahi Shinbun, the Mainichi Shinbun and other newspapers.

The newspapers reported that the names of Nakasone and his son appeared on a list of 15 politicians who allegedly received cheques from Recruit company last August. The list was confiscated from Recruit by the prosecutors, the reports said.

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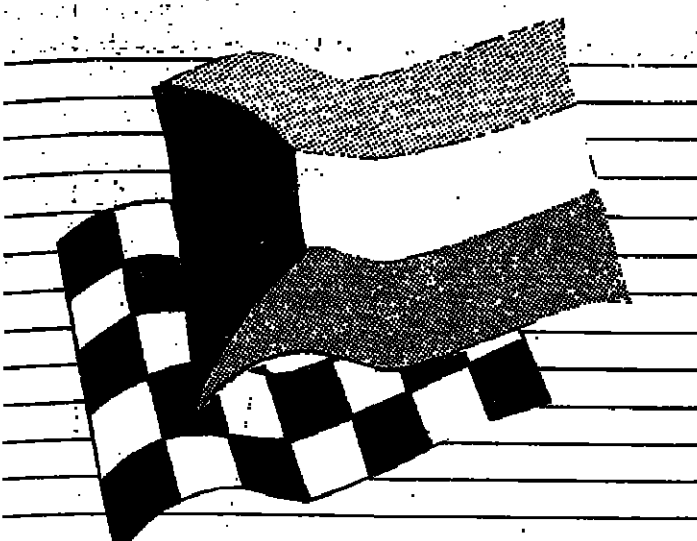
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مكدا مني ربح



10TH KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL RALLY

AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT

40 at the starting line

Ready, steady, go!

By Gail Seery

TODAY sees the start of the KT Club's 10th Kuwait International Rally. 40 drivers have entered the two day event, more than double the number of starters for Qatar, and more than in any round of the Championship except Lebanon last year.

This reflects the level of support for the sport from the rank and file members of the club. Without their participation there would be no rally.

Mohammed Bin Sulayem and Roshan Morgan will be the first to leave the ramp, and the rally is headed off by H.E. Sheikh Fahd.

Sulayem is driving his Group A Toyota Celica GT-4. Following him will be Saeed Hajri and Steve Bond in the Ford Sierra Cosworth.

Ahmed Al Helal and Fahad Al Rashid will be the first Kuwaitis to start the rally.

This year some of the seedlings in Kuwait, but will be the Group A cars must start first, followed by Group B, Group C, and then Group S cars. So novices like Jeff McKelton, and visitors like Ron Oakley, neither of whom would have merited a top start number under the old system, go out before the rally veterans, Tareq Al Wazzan, Ahmed Al Zafiri, and Ottmar Lange.

Sultan Al Soweidi of Qatar has a great deal of experience, and is driving the Toyota Celica Turbo for this event. This is definitely going to be the most powerful car entered, but he will have to wait till number 10.

Soweidi said that traction was going to be his main problem for this event: due to the heavy rains, parts of the special stages have had to be changed because drivers could no longer get through the mud and water without getting stuck. More than one driver was spotted stuck in the mud — some rather humorously.

Group A and S cars cannot score points in the Middle East Championship. Therefore all the drivers of the Group B cars are out for a top finish position.

Three drivers in particular will have to be careful about picking up points for the National Championship, Eid Falah, Tareq Al Wazzan and Ahmed Al Helal.

Falah will have a definite advantage in his Range Rover, and if he wins this event will be uncatchable, assuming he finishes the rally.

Participation

The rally sees the participation of most of the regular drivers, like Tareq Al Alyan, Younis Ali, Ahmed Al Mulla and Nasser Mousalem, and also some newcomers to the sport.

The main competition is likely to be between Sulayem and Hajri, but Ottmar Lange, Sultan Al Soweidi, are certain to race to win. Other drivers to watch for are Tareq Al Wazzan, Eid Falah, Ahmed Al Helal, Mohammed Al Hussein and Ahmed Zafiri. Any one of these drivers is capable of a good result.

If one of the professionals has a problem, there is unlikely to be the sort of gap we saw in past rallies. As Mohammed Bin Sulayem says, "this rally is demanding, as there is no room for error."

Elsewhere in this supplement you will find background information about the rally and the drivers. It is worth travelling out to see the action if you can spare the time, but please remember to put safety first at all times.

The Clerk of the Course for this event is Richard Bondi. He is supported by Abdulla Barkawi, Jacques Lombardo and Debbie Hayes.

Hat-trick for Al Helal?

KUWAIT'S Ahmed Al Helal, looking to win his third consecutive Kuwait Rally Championship, will be aiming to make up ground in this year's title race when the Kuwait International Rally gets under way on March 16.

The Rothmans-sponsored driver, who will once again be partnered by regular co-driver Fahad Al Rashid in his Group A Toyota Corolla, is currently lying third behind Eid Falah and Tareq Al Wazzan in the race for the national crown.

But as the season reaches a crucial point in the local championship, Helal could set himself up to retain his title by being the first Kuwaiti to cross the finish line.

"The Kuwait International

is the second last rally of the season and whoever wins it has a very good chance of winning the national title," he said. "I feel very confident that we can do well and retain the championship."

"I am looking forward to this year's International," he said. "My plan is to get into a good position by the end of the first day and then put in my major challenge on day two. Although I rolled the car during my last rally, everything has been sorted out and we are ready to go."

Helal, chairman of the Kuwait Touring Club Sports Division, is one of the region's most consistent drivers. His most outstanding performance outside the Middle East was in the 4,000 km 1985 Rothmans Pharaohs Rally in Egypt where he finished sixth overall and won the Rothmans Mitsubishi Challenge.

Rally calendar	
Kuwait National Championship 1988/89 - final round to be announced	
Kuwait National Championship 1989	
Round 1	September 22
Round 2	October 20
Round 3	November 23
Middle East Championship	
Jordan	May 17th - 19th
Lebanon	October 13th - 15th
Oman	October 25th - 27th
Dubai	November 30th - December 1st
Marlboro Desert Challenge	
Qatar	October 5th & 6th
Kuwait	November 16th & 17th
Dubai	December 14th & 15th

Ian Bain looks back at some great moments in Kuwait's rallying history

Motor rallying takes a firm hold in Kuwait

THE humble origins of motorsport in Kuwait go back to 1974 when Rothmans introduced the first auto test, a fast and furious event held at Qadisiya Club Stadium under the burning sun of late May.

Forty-five cars of all shapes and makes — from Alfa Romeos to Mazdas and Mercedes, even a Plymouth and an Austin, took part before a sizeable crowd of spectators who were as much entertained by the mishaps as by the driving skills.

It was won by Robert Jones in a Mercedes 280, followed closely by Abdullah Al Shalhi in a Mazda with the BMW 1600 of Abdul Wahab Abdulrahman in third.

A similar Rothmans auto test followed in a much cooler December of that year, this time at the Katan Club, with 47 participants including the Plymouth but without any of the four Alfa Romeos which had contested the earlier round.

Victory went to Marvi Kashkoush in an Opel Commodore, with the Mercedes of Torlof Krager in second place and Michel Saleh's Datsun 240 third.

Delighted with the success of these tests of man and machinery, Rothmans took a giant leap when they staged — with the on-going assistance of the KT Club — the first rally in the Gulf region run according to FIA rules.

It was a much simpler affair than the Kuwait internationals of recent years, a 36-km circular course at Mutla which was covered ten times by the competitors.

Records

Half the entry of 34 vehicles (among them the faithful Plymouth) made it to the finish and the overall winner was the expatriate Roger Taylor in a Honda Civic.

Ten months later, in February, 1976, the second Rothmans Kuwait Rally was a much more elaborate affair. The distance was raised to 500 kms from 360 and it was run over two days, the first at Al Mutla and the second at Al



Rally drivers pose with their cars.



A group of winners proudly display their trophies.

Sulaibiya.

According to the records, victory went to Klaus Mezeiz in a Mercedes 280 with Tareq Al Wazzan taking an excellent second place in a BMW 2000. Wazzan had figured

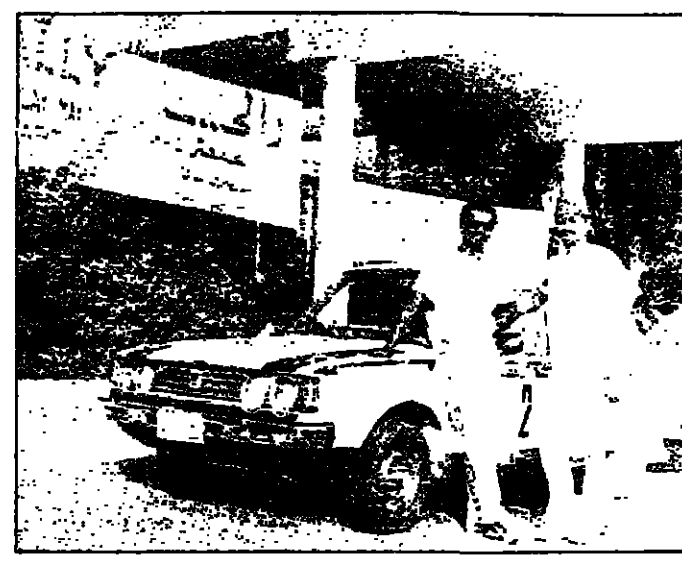
prominently in all the previous Rothmans events, finishing fifth in the first auto test. Although it might be contested, he would appear to be the only driver in this week's event who was involved

Middle East Championship Winners

1984	Saeed Al Hajri
1985	Saeed Al Hajri
1986	Mohammed Bin Sulayem
1987	Mohammed Bin Sulayem
1988	Mohammed Bin Sulayem

Kuwait National Championship Winners

1979/80	Faez Chihab	BMW 2002
1980/81	Tareq Al Wazzan	Toyota Celica
1981/82	Michel Saleh	Toyota Celica
1982/83	Michel Saleh	Toyota Celica
1983/84	Ahmed Al Zafiri	Nissan 240RS
1986/87	Ahmed Al Helal	Daihatsu Charade
1987/88	Ahmed Al Helal	Daihatsu Charade
1988/89	??	



Ahmed Al-Helal and Fahad Al-Rashed.



After a race, all smiles for a group photo

in Kuwait rallying from the very beginning.

By 1977, Rothmans rallying in Kuwait was firmly established and the third international attracted 40 drivers of 19 different

nationalities competing over a two-day route of 550 kms.

Roger Taylor, who had won the first fully-fledged rally, repeated his success in the third. Driving a Mazda RX4, he pipped Bill Murphy in a

Volvo 244 and Gregory Milne in a similar vehicle.

Murphy turned the tables in 1978 when the rally took a huge leap forward with 56 entries competing over 980 kms. Murphy's Volvo finished ahead of the BMW of Tareq Al Wazzan (partnered by John Spiller who went on to navigate for Saeed Al Hajri and Mohammed Bin Sulayem) and the Renault 16 of Gerard Asfar.

It was the first time that the rally had been linked to a series, entitled somewhat curiously The Final Championship of the Middle East, and involving Cyprus, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait.

It's also interesting to note that Michel Saleh was described even in those days as "daring." His 1978 hopes ended in a ditch.

If a 1978 had seemed a grand affair, the following year was spectacular. The distance was increased to 1,500 kms — possibly the longest in the history of Kuwait motorsport — and the event contained some of the greatest names in international rallying, among them Shekhar Mehta of Kenya, Frenchman Jean Ragnotti and Sweden's Harry Kalstroem.

The Datsun 160J of Mehta was followed home by Kalstroem's and Ragnotti's Renault with Britain's Mike Foss taking fourth place in a Mitsubishi Lancer.

In seventh spot was Kuwait's Ahmed Al Helal, another driver who will be taking part in this week's rally.

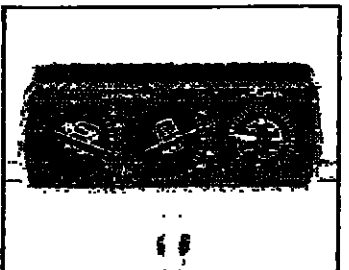
Sadly, that was the last year of the Rothmans Middle East Championship, but the series opened the door first for the Gulf Challenge, then the Middle East Challenge and, finally, the FISA Middle East Rally Championship.



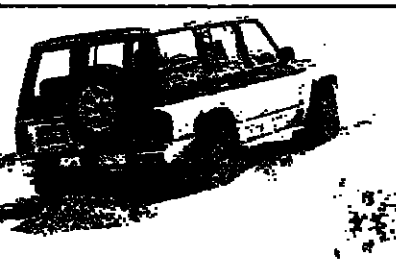
Some Kuwait rally winners with Datsun's Ahmed Babbain.

NISSAN PATROL 89

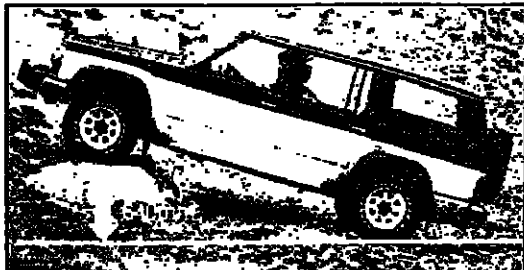
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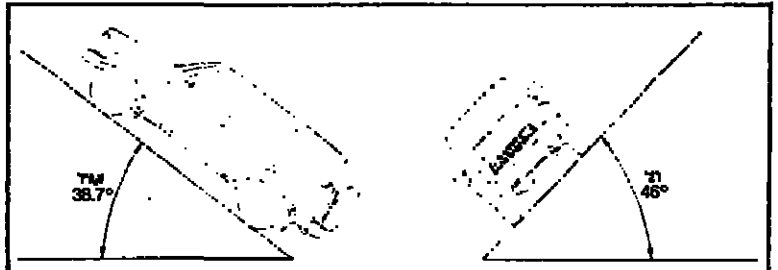
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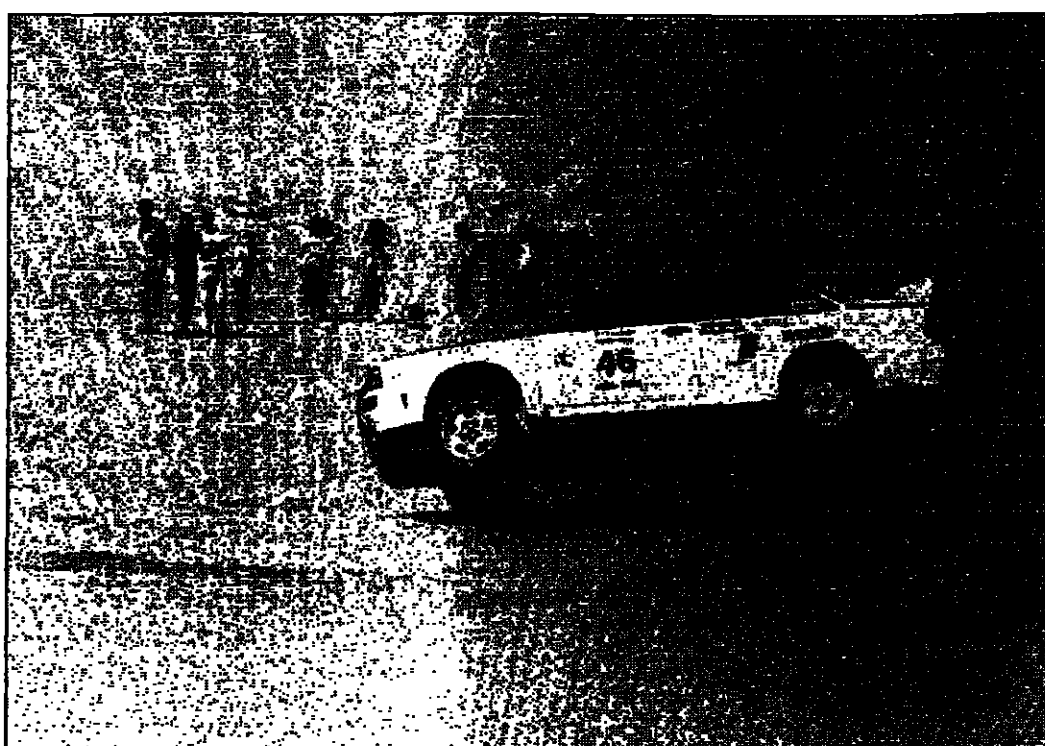
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10TH KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL RALLY: AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT

THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 16-17, 1989



Mohammed Bin Sulayem won after a protest.



Saleh, the most spectacular driver in the Kuwait rally '88.



Sulayem, Morgan and Hajri (right) relax at Entertainment City between stages.

1988 rally marked by controversy

THE 1988 Kuwait International Rally was surrounded with controversy which had little to do with the rally itself. Right from the start things seemed determined to go wrong.

About a month before the event the KT Club received a telex from Pierre de Connick at FISA, saying that the B-seeded drivers, Saeed Al Hajri and Mohammed Bin Sulayem would not be allowed to start the rally driving Group B cars. This was contrary to instructions received by the other clubs.

Foolishly perhaps, the Club believed its colleagues in the other Gulf organisations, and it was only when a repeat telex from FISA was received, days before the event, that Clerk of the Course Wael Khoury was forced to inform the Toyota and Rothmans teams that they would not be allowed to start the rally. Frantic phone calls to FISA led to an admission by Pierre de Connick that there had been an error.

Upset

The rally itself went reasonably smooth, but saw a major upset in that all local drivers who were expected to do well, Ahmed Al Helal, Tareq Al Wazzan and Ahmed Al Zafri went out of the event on stage 1. The main Kuwait challenge therefore came from Josef Miskulnig and navigator Klaus Schwingenshloegl in the Nissan 240RS and Mohammed Al Hussein in a Toyota Celica. Hussein rolled out of the rally near to the end of the event, and Miskulnig picked up maximum points for the local championship.

The rally suited Hajri's Audi Quattro A2, and Sulayem was complaining of a lack of traction with his Toyota Celica Twincam turbo. There did not appear to be any doubt about which driver would take a win in the event.

However, on the first stage of the second morning, Steve Bond submitted his time cards early, after a mis-statement by the marshal. Later the Toyota team brought a protest, which was upheld by a panel of stewards, sitting in conference with the FISA observer. Al Hajri was awarded a two minute penalty which pushed him behind Sulayem, into second place. The tragedy is that Hajri had certainly been taking things easy on the second day and could arguably have made up enough time to have kept his win.

This result soured the relations between the teams for some time afterwards, and spoiled the memory of what was actually a good rally, with some excellent driving from all competitors.



Lange (left) and Saleh, an unlikely couple



A different kind of ride for the participants.

Al Ghanim EUROPCAR the ultimate in service

YUSUFA, Al Ghanim and Sons, sole agents for EUROPCAR car rental in Kuwait, is considered one of the leading companies in the Middle East, according to Anis Tayar, Spot and Leasing Sales Manager at Al Ghanim.

Al Ghanim strives to provide customers with the ultimate in services, he said. It has a wide-range of hire services and extends the period of hire from a single day to as long as the customer desires. The broad range of car models enables the company to cater to the needs of every customer. There are more than 500 cars which can be hired with or without drivers, he added.

The company's 12 branches are distributed all over Kuwait. The car hire service at Kuwait International Airport operates 24 hours a day. Additionally, most five star hotels in Kuwait, like Kuwait Regency, SAS, Sheraton, Meridien, and the Messilah have the company's rental services.

Another rental office has been established in the Al Ghanim main garage in Shuwaikh to provide customers with the opportunity of delivering rental cars to any of the company's branches.

The Kuwait International Airport branch of Al Ghanim's assists customers in getting driving permits in Kuwait, provided they have an international driving licence. The company also provides businessmen with portable phone service.

Payments are accepted through credit cards, in addition to free international reservations, Tayar said.

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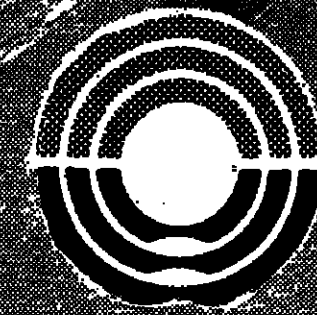
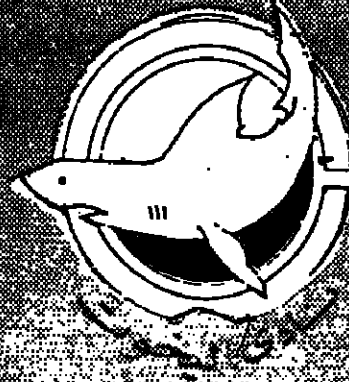
Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah



10th Kuwait International Rally

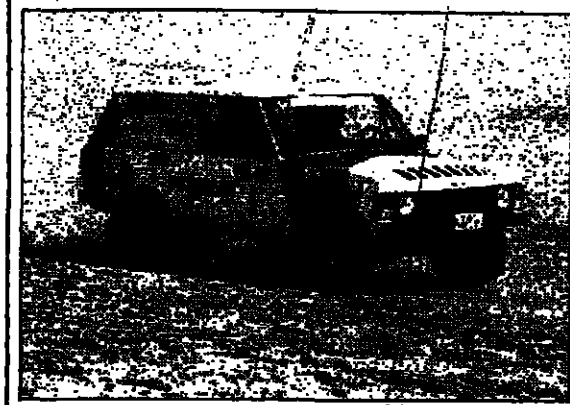
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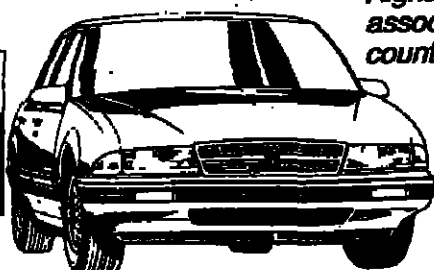
1st Round – January 1988					
1. Ahmed Al Helal/Fahad Al Rashed	Toyota Corolla	1:27:09	5. Ahmed Zafiri/Ghazi Zafiri	Dalhousie Charade	0:58:38
2. Tareq Al Wazzan/Khaled Khalifa	Range Rover	1:31:46	6. L. Fendherstewich/K. Speak	Volvo 240	1:02:16
3. Faez Chahab/Hanan Chahab	Mitsubishi Lancer	1:34:06			
4. Ahmed Al Nasser/A. Al Khateeb	Mitsubishi Lancer	1:37:25			
5. Tarek Al Alyan/Khaloud Al Alyan	Charade	1:40:52			
2nd Round (International) March 16/17, 1988					
1. Josef Miskabchi/Schwizgenboggi	Nissan 240RS	2:19:25			
2. Faez Chahab/Hanan Chahab	Mitsubishi Lancer	2:30:04			
3. Ahmed Al Nasser/Bader Al Zaidi	Mitsubishi Lancer	2:44:44			
4. Tareq Al Alyan/Khaloud Al Alyan	Dalhousie Charade	2:48:29			
5. Jamal Al Marafi/Adnan Marafi	Nissan Patrol	2:51:11			
3rd Round – April 1988					
1. Eld Fahal/Sadeq Ashkanani	Range Rover	1:42:36			
2. Mohd Al Hussini/Al Moosa	Toyota Celica	1:43:12			
3. Ali Al Birami/Mohd Al Zaid	Mitsubishi Lancer	1:54:25			
4. Tareq Al Alyan/Khaloud Al Alyan	Rocky	2:03:55			
5. Nouri Al Hasswi/Al Shalhin	Datsun	2:06:33			
* Faez Chahab and Ahmed Al Zafiri disqualified					
4th Round – September 1988					
1. Tareq Al Wazzan/Khaled Khalifa	Range Rover	0:52:47			
2. Eld Fahal/Sadeq Ashkanani	Range Rover	0:57:55			
3. Ahmed Al Helal/Fahad Al Rashed	Toyota Corolla	0:59:08			
5th Round – November 1988					
1. Eld Fahal/Sadeq Ashkanani	Range Rover	1:13:32			
2. Ahmed Al Helal/Shakir Mabarak	Toyota Corolla	1:15:21			
3. Ali Al Birami/Mohd Al Zaid	Dalhousie Charade	1:22:26			
4. Ahmed Al Mulla/Tharhan Ali	Nissan 240RS	1:24:29			
5. Nasser Mooslem/Mufied Al Ali	Datsun Sylvia	1:27:01			
6th Round – December 1988					
1. Tareq Al Wazzan/Khaled Khalifa	Opel Monza	1:16:32			
2. Ahmed Al Helal/Fahad Al Rashed	Toyota Corolla	1:11:39			
3. Ahmed Al Mulla/Tharhan Ali	Nissan 240RS	1:40:08			
7th Round – February 1989					
1. Eld Fahal/Sadeq Ashkanani	Range Rover	1:43:47			
2. Tareq Al Wazzan/Khaled Khalifa	Opel Monza 400	1:07:21			
3. Ali Al Birami/Mohd Al Zaid	Dalhousie Charade	1:16:23			
4. Ahmed Al Mulla/Tharhan Ali	Nissan 240RS	1:12:24			
8th Round – March 1989					
1. Nasser Mooslem/Mufied Al Ali	Datsun Sylvia	1:12:51			

This is another twisty quarry stage which has never been used before. The stage is expected to test driving skills, and should be an interesting one to watch.

point injection. Front and rear stabilizers, 14" low-profile radial tyres and 4-wheel disk brakes promise exceptional road-holding. Super sports bucket seats, shift lever and steering wheel, analogue instruments, and molded door and rear quarter trim complete the GTi's sporty image.



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A great deal of change — not necessarily for the good

Longest season ever for KTMSD

Gail Seery reviews the 1988/89 Kuwait rally season

THE 1988/89 season has been the longest and most confusing season to date. The idea behind converting to one extra long season running from January 1988 to April 1989 was that this would facilitate a change-over from a January to December season with a long summer break, to a September to April season with no break.

However drivers found that their sponsors did not like this form of budgeting and after a very long season the club will have a short, three event season, ending in December before changing back to the old way of doing things.

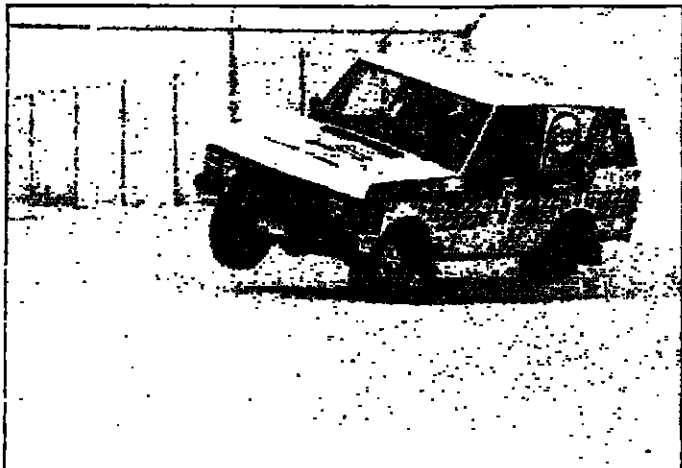
Just to confuse matters, there is no straightforward scoring method for points this season. True, points are awarded as detailed in the tables elsewhere in this supplement, but drivers will have to drop one result out of the local rallies, must participate in one international, and must drop one of the international results.

Extra weighting is given to the international results, and the points are doubled. It is therefore not so easy to calculate exactly how far apart the drivers stand.

Leads
Eid Falah currently leads the Kuwait National Championship, after driving his best season to date, in the Zayani Range Rover.

This young driver had never won an event until April of 1988, but with a strong car, and an experienced and sensible co-driver he has notched up a series of good wins.

Second place is held by one of Kuwait's most experienced campaigners, Tareq Al Wazzan, driving for Marlboro. He has had a truly disastrous season, and has



Eid Falah: defying the odds

entered in no less than three cars, suffering a series of frustrating breakdowns along the way.

Champion

In fourth place, but still very much in touch is another of Kuwait's experienced drivers, reigning champion Ahmed Al Helal, who drives under Rothmans sponsorship. This driver has also had a disappointing season, but a good result in the international could push him ahead.

Assuming all three drivers drop their international result for last year, and their worst local result, there are only 15 points between them.

Applying the same formula to everybody else, Tareq Al Alyan who appears to be in third place has some 35 points to drop, which will push him well back in the standings.

A lot of young drivers have shown good promise this year particularly Ahmed Al Mulla, and Nasser Mousalem, both of whom were late starting the season, but have consistently finished at around the top five mark. Again, Hossam Al Sayafe has proved his tenacity as a driver, but his powerboat racing exploits have called him to Dubai this weekend. There are so few international class events held in the Gulf that it seems absurd that they should be timed to clash with each

other.

Ahmed Al Zafiri and Mohammed Al Hussein have both had a poor season. Zafiri managed to finish only twice — and even then one of the results was overturned. Apart from the apparently indestructible Daihatsu Charade, every other vehicle he has entered has collapsed sooner or later. Both he and Hussein have been hit a chronic lack of spares for the ageing Toyota Celicas. If both these drivers are back in competitive cars next season we should witness a good fight.

Competent

Both Ali Al Birami and Ahmed Al Nasser have driven competently throughout the season, but have never really questioned the domination of the more powerful cars ahead of them. Tareq Al Alyan managed to notch up some top five finishes and at one point led the championship, but because of the scoring system described above, his high placings have been deceptive, and the return of the more powerful cars has seen his results progressively worsening.

Lester Featherstonehaugh took his Volvo home to fifth place in December's rally — his first finish for a number of years, and one which gives a hint of what this driver is



The drivers wait for the results of round 6.



Mohammed Jasar & Fadi Mansur stuck in the mud at round 5

capable of.

Josef Miskulnig and Klaus Schwingenshloeg did well in the early rounds, coming home first out of the local entrants in the 1988 International. However, business commitments forced this pairing out of local events.

Ottmar Lange failed to drive in any round to date, and his comeback for the international is eagerly awaited. He co-drove for Michel Saleh in last year's international.

The season has seen a great deal of change, not all of it necessarily for the good. At the start of the 1988 the organisation changed its name to KTMSD, and produced a new logo — but this change only scraped the surface. The

most disturbing aspect has been that there have been no fewer than four Clerks of the Course this season, displaying various levels of expertise. Richard Bondi, the current incumbent is settling into his tasks well.

The KT Club has taken the very positive step of appointing Abdullah Barkawi to work on rallies full time, and he and secretary Debbie Hayes have worked hard to create a club environment in their offices.

The 10th Kuwait International Rally sponsored by the Mahdi Habib Establishment will be the organising committee's biggest venture to date and we wish them every success and our continued support.

1978			
1st	Bill Murphy	Volvo 242	
2nd	Tareq Al Wazzan	BMW 320i	
3rd	Gerard Asfar	Renault 16	
1979			
1st	Harry Kalstrom	Datsun 160J	
2nd	Shekhar Mehta	Datsun 160J	
3rd	Jean Ragnotti	Renault 5	
1980			
1st	Shekhar Mehta	Datsun 160J	
2nd	Harry Kalstrom	Datsun 160J	
3rd	Mike Fosse	Toyota Celica	
1981			
1st	Ahmed Al Zafiri	Datsun 160J	
2nd	Ali Al Birami	Datsun 160J	
3rd	Faez Chihab	Nissan Patrol	
1983			
1st	Saeed Al Hajri	Opel Ascona 400	
2nd	Michel Saleh	Toyota Celica	
3rd	Ahmed Al Zafiri	Datsun 160J	
1984			
1st	Michel Saleh	Toyota Celica	
2nd	Ahmed Al Zafiri	Nissan 240RS	
3rd	Ali Al Birami	Datsun 160J	
1985			
1st	Mohammed Bin Sulayem	Toyota Celica Turbo	
2nd	Ottmar Lange	Nissan 240RS	
3rd	Ahmed Al Nasser	Mitsubishi Sapporo	
1987			
1st	Saeed Al Hajri	Porsche 911 SCRS	
2nd	Mohammed Bin Sulayem	Toyota Celica Turbo	
3rd	Lasse Lampi	Mitsubishi Starion	
1988			
1st	Mohammed Bin Sulayem	Toyota Celica Turbo	
2nd	Saeed Al Hajri	Audi Quattro A2	
3rd	Sultan Al Soweidi	Toyota Celica	

Qatar rally upsetting

THE Qatar Rally was undoubtedly one of the most upsetting for a long time. What should have been an event decided on the performance of the drivers and on the power and reliability of their new group A cars, became settled instead by spectator intervention.

The rally was doomed to be cut short on both legs, because the organisers could not control a handful of onlookers who seemed determined to make trouble.

It was near to the end of the second leg when Sulayem came over a blind brow and landed on a rock which had been placed there between Al Hajri passing and Sulayem's arrival. The organisers stopped the rally at the



Bin Sulayem and co-driver on the ground after their car came across a rock placed by a spectator.

stage before, and awarded Al Hajri first place, some 20 minutes and 27 seconds ahead of Sulayem. However, Sulayem alleges that, without being slowed on the stages, the night before he would have been ahead.

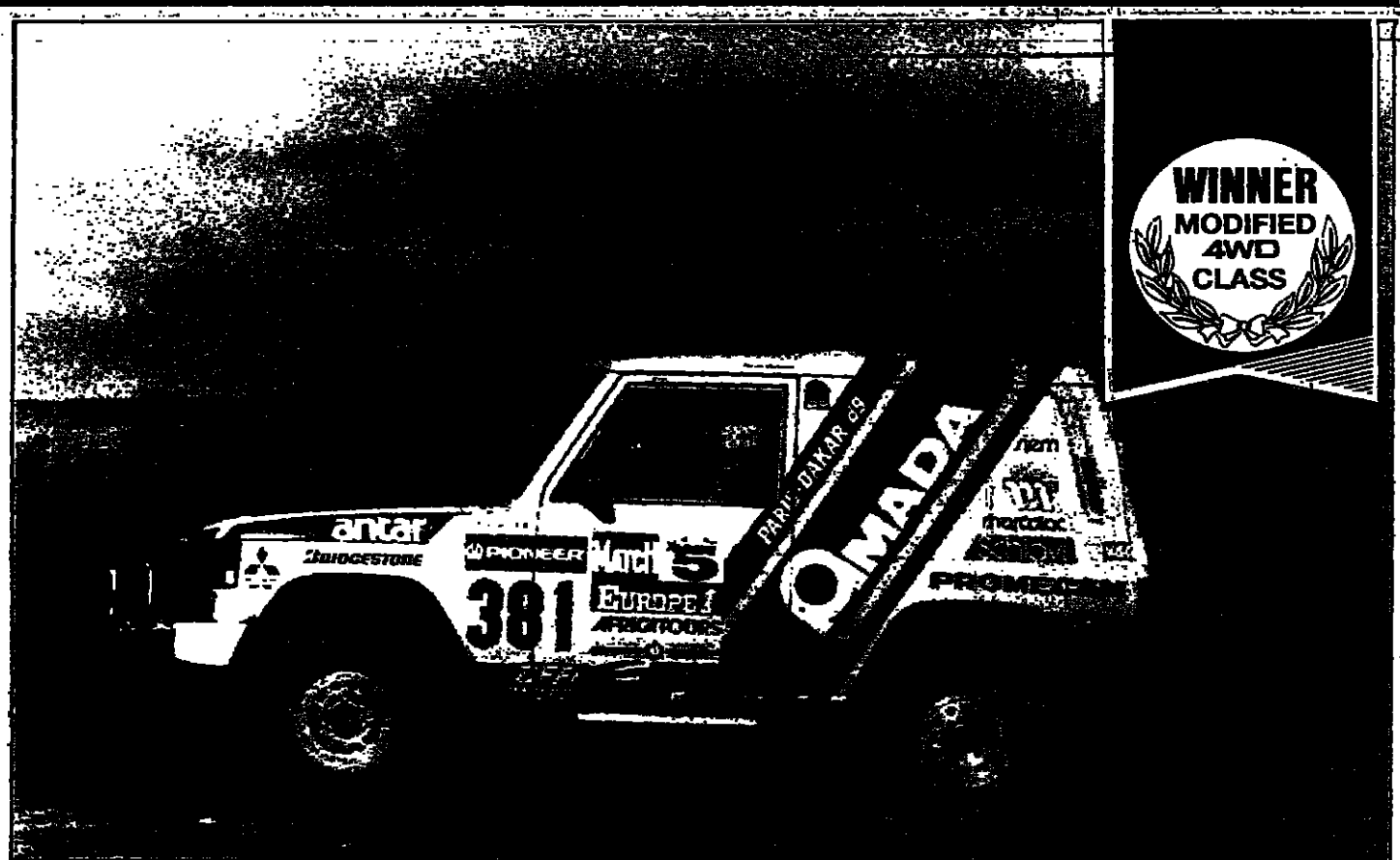
No-one benefitted by this action, least of all Saeed Al Hajri, and the effect on the Qatar Club was most undesired. Clerk of the Course Graham Butterworth led a dedicated and efficient team, and the rally reached a high standard.

Local drivers Sadeous Al Kowari and Jaber Al Marri shone in their attempts not to be outdone by the new group A cars, but their efforts were sadly overshadowed by events in which they had no part.

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مكتبة

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A Galant performance in Monte Carlo

Mitsubishi Galant VR4 makes rally debut

By Andrew Cowan

ARI Vatanen and his four-wheel steering Mitsubishi VR4 made a successful debut in the Monte Carlo Rally, which motorsport purists consider to be the "classic" event in the World Rally Championship. These "purists" are the admirers of superb machines and also fans of exciting, hard-fought races who gather in their thousands during four days and four nights all along the route.

The success of this debut in the Monte Carlo Rally can be summed up in a few figures: a fastest overall time on tarmac on which it was the Galant's first experience, a third place overall held throughout ten special stages out of the twenty in which the "couple" Vatanen-Mitsubishi competed before they went off the road only four events and four hours away from the finish in the Principality.

All this with a car — "a primary version of a rally car", as the Team Manager, Andrew Cowan put it — which is only just starting to be developed, and which gave 270 kg to the Lancia of the winner, Massimo Biasion, the 21st fastest overall time in the event. The Galant's debut was a success because it was the first time a four-wheel drive car had won a special stage in the Monte Carlo Rally since the RAC last November in Britain, due to the end of year public relations activities and the preparation of their African adventure.

Just how excellent this result was could be measured throughout the four-day long rally by the



Mitsubishi Galant 4wd turbo at the Monte Carlo Rally.

keen interest shown in the car by the journalists and technicians, as it gradually began to compete more closely with the Italian cars, which have been established at the peak of the sport for several years now.

On this point, Cesare Fiorio, the Manager of the sporting department of the Italian Group, said that as the Galant's debut was a success because it was the first time a four-wheel drive car had won a special stage in the Monte Carlo Rally since the RAC last November in Britain, due to the end of year public relations activities and the preparation of their African adventure.

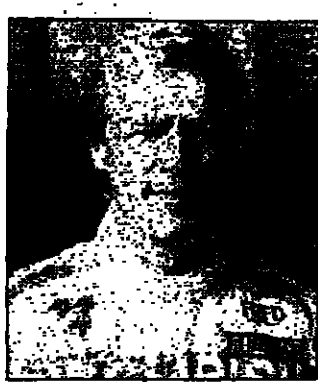
conceded 94/100 of a second per kilometre to the world champion car. And if Vatanen had not had a puncture (Biasion did not have any problems at all) this difference would have been brought up to 75/100 of a second, with a reasonable hope of taking 2nd place overall from Didier Auriol, the Frenchman.

"When one considers the degree to which the Italian cars have been developed, and the potential which we have not yet developed on our car, we can now safely say that the Galant is a well-established car."

With the "revival" of Vatanen in the World Championship, vouched for by his place on the top step of the popularity rostrum, thanks to those

people who have witnessed him develop magnificently on all terrains — snow-covered, icy or dry, the entertainment could have turned out to be a complete show if he had not gone off the road only a few kilometres from Monaco, in the last part of the final leg. Bruno Saby, who took 3rd place just at the right moment, and made Lancia's success complete, was the first, very sportingly, to deplore such a finish to the rally when, having come through the famous "Madonna Pass" unscathed, he gave the alert: "Ari has just run into a low wall due to fine gravel thrown onto the road by spectators."

This unfortunate epilogue was minimized just as sportingly by Ari



Driver Ari Vatanen



Co-driver Andrew Cowan

Vatanen, who preferred to recall the positive side to this extremely important Monte Carlo Rally test: "I was only vaguely familiar with the Team and the car, I knew Cowan a little better. This is a very international team with British and Japanese technicians, a French tyre manufacturer (Michelin), a Finnish driver and a Swedish co-driver. The osmosis has already occurred around the famous British fighting spirit. Everyone was remarkably efficient in the field. What I asked to be done on the car after the RAC was done. I can already see the progress made, and that gives me tremendous confidence."

Such a declaration must certainly strengthen

Andrew Cowan's belief which is gradually becoming a certainty for him, and a worrying acknowledgement on the part of Cesare Fiorio when he said after the finish: "This season, we will no longer be in a class of our own."

Andrew Cowan supervised everything and noted all the remarks made by the crews and the teams of mechanics from the various service points. In addition to his driving experience, the Team Manager will be going back to England with very full specifications. "First of all, we are going to recondition the car, as it suffered terribly with the front right suspension when it hit the wall. Then we will concentrate on reducing the weight. This is our number one priority, taking into account that we have just discovered that under the worst conditions, excessive weight and tarmac, the parts which were put to the most severe test, such as the transmissions, brakes and gearbox, all took the strain perfectly."

"We are going to start tackling the weight problem from now on, probably before leaving for Greece to carry out tests. It is something we didn't get round to as we were busy solving the transmission problems after the RAC," he explained. "We realize that in Monaco we benefitted from a surprise effect. But we were also given confirmation of the Galant's potential and performance that we should be able to obtain from its power output after its slimming cure."



Lacoste for the sporting people

LACOSTE, the name conjures up images of healthy, sporting stylishly dressed men — confident go-getters who take their grooming needs seriously.

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Now, Lacoste take their grooming collection out into the great outdoors with a superb collection of sun care products suitable for summer and winter sports use promising good protection yet and glorious tanning.

Lacoste Sun Technics is the perfect choice for all active people who enjoy the sun but insist on a safe tanning regime. With formulations using the latest in sun tan technology, there are products for every conceivable need from total protection to rapid tanning and after sun care.

Presented in stunning packaging, the Lacoste laughing green crocodile emblem is central against a background of white with the words 'Sun Technics' picked out in sunny yellow to match the convenient plastic tubes and bottle caps.

All items are contained within complementing sturdy outer boxes which have solid yellow interiors for extra vibrant impact. To make selection easy, each product's application is clearly described on pack and SPF factors are prominent for instant identification.

The Lacoste Sun Technics range include the following products: Total Sun Screen Safe Tanning, SPF 12 — 50 ml: a light, non-greasy, oil-in-water emulsion; which completely protects against UVA and UVB rays whilst special protective agents include extracts of Arnica, Salicic acid and amino acids moisturise and soften the skin.

Stick Face & Lips, SPF 8 — 40ml: offers a high protection against UVA and UVB rays. Stick Face & Lips in its handy presentation glides on smoothly leaving a transparent, protective film after application.

Waterworld Sun Milk, SPF 6 — 100 ml: offers the benefits of good protection against UVA and UVB rays. The lotion also features a melanin precursor which helps speed up the natural tan. Moisturising Sun Cream Special for Face, SPF 4 — 2x30 ml: contains a rich blend of moisturising and anti-wrinkle agents including collagen and mucopolysaccharides. The SPF 4 allows for safe, gradual tanning.

Sun Milk, SPF 4 — 125 ml: a light, softly fragranced liquid, which is ideal for all over body use.

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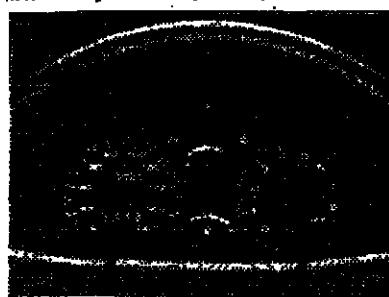
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MARLBORO'S Tareq Al Wazzan, who now lies second in the Kuwait National Championship, is an extremely experienced and able competitor. He began motorsports in 1973, competing in the Autotests which were held at the Qadisiya Club.

"In my first event I drove an Alfa Romeo and came fifth," he recalls. "Before that I had only driven in the street, and as I drove an Alfa Romeo anyway I was approached by that company to drive their car in the Autotest." Very few drivers are lucky enough to be sponsored from their first event.

Negotiate
 Entrants had to negotiate their path through a series of bollards — and of course, it is here that the real driving skill lies. "Right from the start I loved racing, cars and speed, but it isn't legal to race in the street. When they came to me and told me I could race other cars legally I jumped at the chance."

Although this is the KT Club's 10th rally, rallying actually started here in 1975 organised by ex-World Champion navigator David Richards. "I drove a Porsche-shaped Volkswagen SB2 and came 6th overall. Then I was sponsored by BMW and drove a BMW 2002. I took second place overall and was the first Kuwaiti home in 1976."

"The following year I was still with BMW, but this time I broke. Really, this is not the 10th International — we were rallying before 1978. My first international event was Qatar in 1977."

"The KT Club sports association started when Ahmed Al Helal and I went to Mr Al Monayes and asked if we could start a sporting section to the club. We wanted the opportunity to put Kuwait ahead and make it special. He agreed, and the first International they organised was won by Bill Murphy."

Wazzan was in the second car home — still a BMW, but this time a BMW 320i. "Once again I was first among the Kuwaitis," Wazzan was also the first Gulf entrant in the Gulf Championship, and his prize, from Rothmans and Castrol, was the opportunity to drive in the Burmah Rally in Scotland.

"That was a completely new experience for me. There were 90 starters, and I finished number 32. It was the first rally in my life when I saw forests and mountains — it was raining solid for three days, and the roads were really slippery — not exactly like the desert!"

"John Spiller, who later went on to partner Saeed and Mohammed was my co-driver at that time. I didn't really know what to expect, and my desert rallying experience didn't help me at all. We did the first two hundred metres, then took a 90 right, and landed the car, an Opel Kadett GTI, in a ditch."

Experience

"Looking back I can see that it was a mistake to take me there. It was tarmac of course, which I'd never encountered, and I'd never had to drive solid for three days. It was too much too soon, and I had no special training for the event."

"I enjoyed it as an experience, and it was good practice for me, but I can't say it helped me in the desert. On the other hand, it was very good experience to be among such good drivers, and I learned a good deal about that

Gail Seery talks to one of Kuwait's leading drivers

Al Wazzan: I can't really see myself stopping



Al Wazzan has driven a bewildering array of cars. (above and below).



Al Wazzan with his new Opel Manta and in action. (Inset).



Al Wazzan has received quite a few prizes in his career.



Al Wazzan and Ahmed Al Helal.



Al Wazzan and Alain Prost in Hungary.

"No one can win a rally on their own, no matter how good a car is. A driver is nothing without a good co-driver beside him. Khaled Khalifa is one of the best in the business and I'm delighted to have him working with me."

through customs, and I eventually made my comeback in the night rally."

was the toughest of my career — I had always been at the top before, and I was frightened of finding my skill was gone."

the cars ahead of him and the dust they were throwing up, Wazzan was ahead, and won the rally.

Since then he has not finished a local event lower than second — and he settles for second only when a problem robs him of first place. Sadly however, there have been many problems. This season would have been settled much earlier if he hadn't broken in three events. Much of the time the problem was frustratingly straightforward — as when he encountered mysterious electrical problems with his Range Rover, which his service team couldn't diagnose or fix — until after the rally.

"Marlboro are the biggest motorsports sponsor in the World, and I'm proud to be a member of the team," says Wazzan.

In 1987 his sponsors took him to Hungary Grand Prix where he was introduced to Marlboro team-mate, former world champion, and the man who has won more races than any one else, Alain Prost. "This was nothing to do with rallying," said Wazzan, "but it was a great experience."

Wazzan has also participated in the Marlboro Desert Challenge series of 4x4 rallies, and has invariably done well. For the 1987 and 88 rallies he drove under Arab Times sponsorship and his links with the paper are strong. "It's the best rally paper," he says. He lies third in this year's Challenge after one event, and will be driving a works-prepared and backed Mitsubishi Sonauto for the remaining events. The car will of course bear the distinctive Marlboro colours.

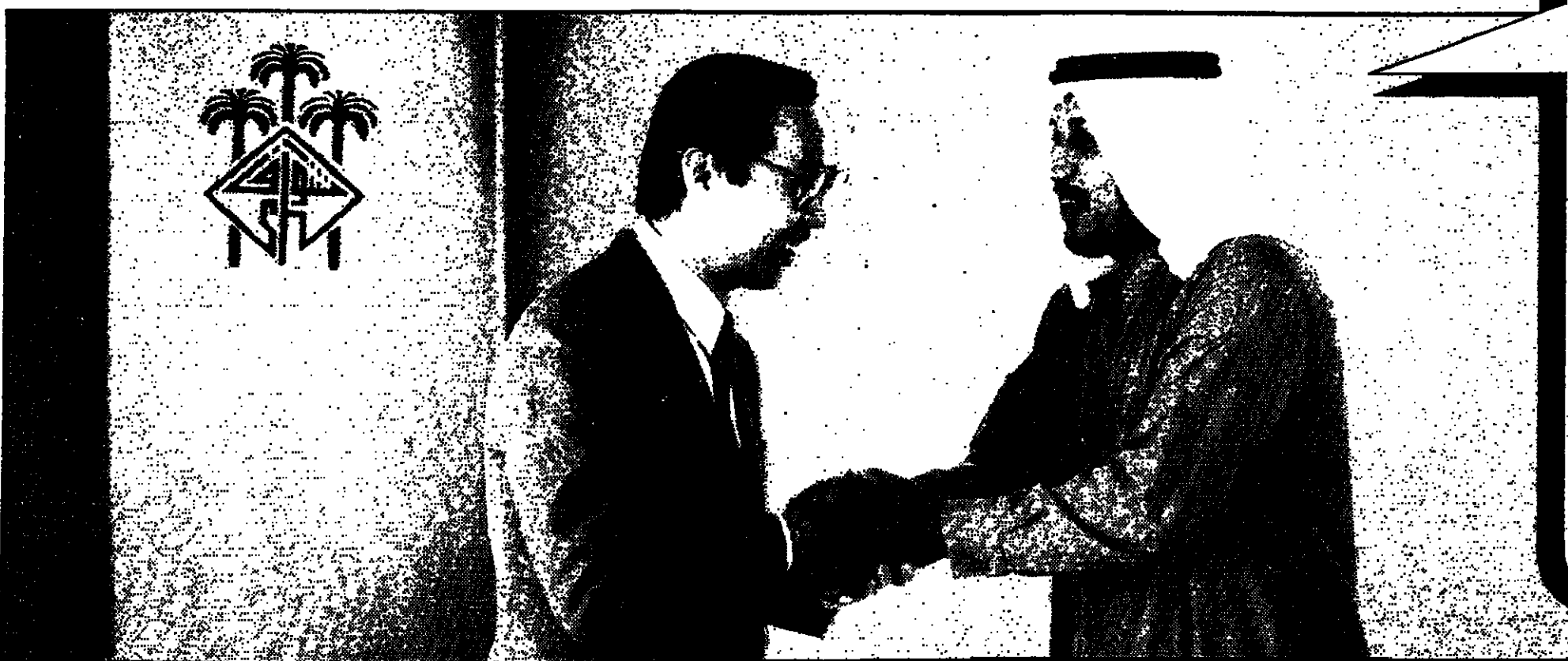
Wazzan's main concern now is the International. "This rally is another important event for me. If I can manage to be the first Kuwaiti home I will take the lead in the championship. You have to bear in mind that if Eid and I drop our worst results, as we have to before the end of the season, then I am only seven points behind him. If I hadn't had those electrical problems with the Range Rover I'd be in the lead now. Even so, I started way back, climbed to seventh, then fourth, and am now second. The championship title is within my grasp."

Wazzan has raced and rallied in a bewildering array of cars, from the Alfa Romeo, to the Mini, to BMW, and Toyota. Now he will be driving the Opel Manta 400, which formerly belonged to Ahmed Khalifa of Dubai, in which he took the Dubai Championship last year.

"I don't think I've pushed this car yet. It's already given me first and second places, and I think it is capable of a very good result. The Manta is tried and tested, and has already proved itself to be strong and reliable — at all levels, including World Championship. It's in good hands with Afghanistan, the Opel dealers for Kuwait."

"No one can win a rally on their own, no matter how good a car is. A driver is nothing without a good co-driver beside him. Khaled Khalifa is one of the best in the business, and I'm delighted to have him working with me. Our team is controlled by Tomi Samia, another very experienced campaigner, who used to co-drive for me, and for Michel Saleh. We have the advantage of a good sponsor, Marlboro, and I look forward to very many more years rallying — I can't really see myself stopping."

Wazzan needsn't have worried. By the time he got to the end of the first stage he had caught three cars and taken the fastest time. From there on, despite being slowed considerably by



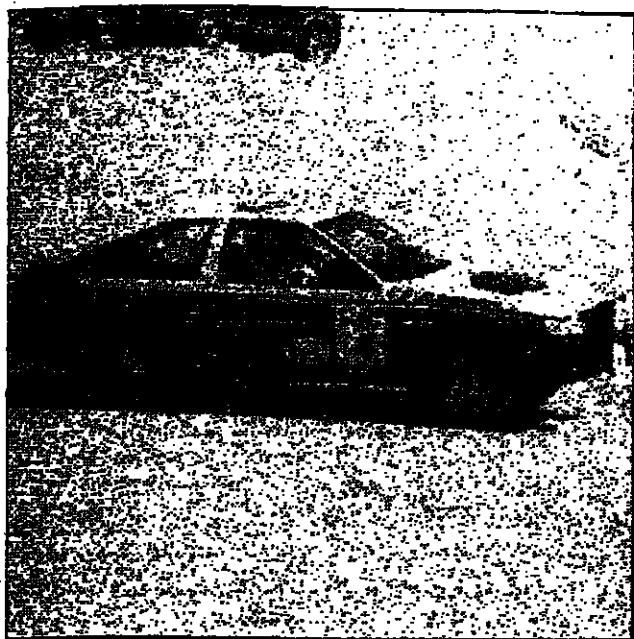
Mr. Fukuda, the Japanese car expert arrived yesterday from Tokyo to attend the preparations for the big event by Abbas Ahmad Al-Shawaf & Bros. Co.

Tomorrow Mr. Fukuda will reveal the good news with a pleasant surprise for the distinctive driving lovers.

مركزا منى لاصط

Profiles of leading drivers, co-drivers

International Local entrants Co-drivers



SULAYEM has made a dramatic impact on rally sport in the Middle East region over the last six years. He has won the Middle East Championship for three years running, though last year it looked as though he would be unable to make the hat-trick. He sustained a severe neck injury in a road accident in October, and was unable to drive in Oman. Despite being hampered by a very solid looking neck brace in Dubai, he took a win and the Championship laurels again.

Sulayem made his debut in the Dubai International in 1983, and surprised onlookers by coming second. Since then he has shown himself to be one of the most persistent and determined racers in the sport.

For many years the Dubai had to struggle on in the shadow of Al Hajri, and there were those who said that his 1986 Championship title was made more accessible by the non-participation of Al Hajri. However, two more titles followed, and his prowess as a driver can no longer be in any doubt.

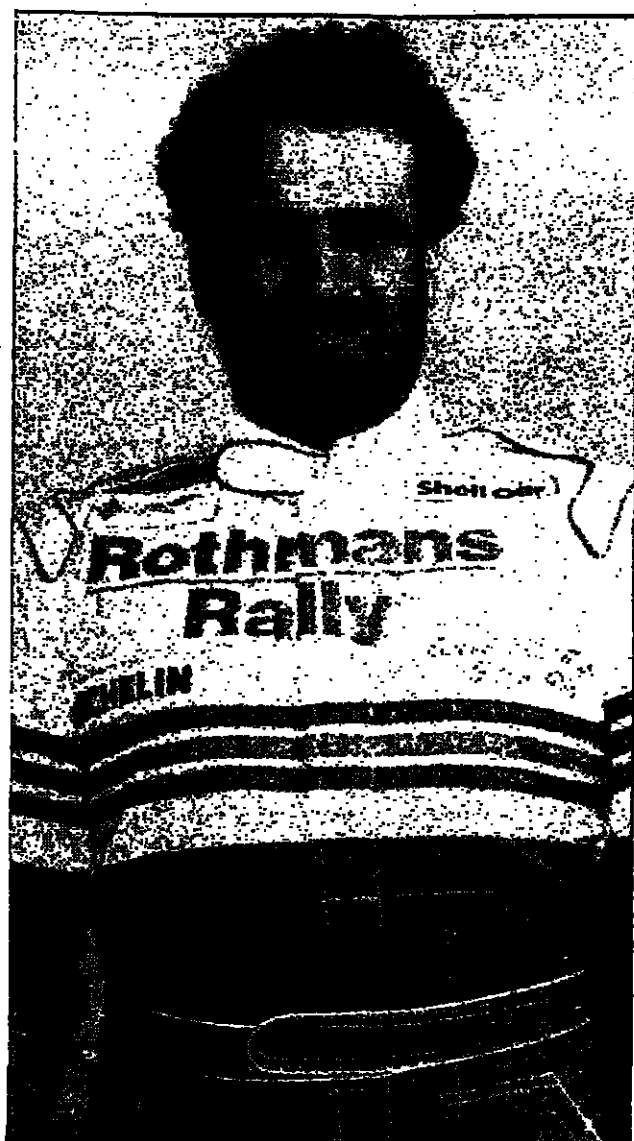
Sulayem has driven for the Toyota Team Middle East for a number of years. This year his old Toyota Celica Twincam Turbo is relegated to practice car as the new rules enforced by FISA state that as a B-seeded driver, Sulayem must compete in a Group A car. The Toyota Celica 2000 GT-4 should prove a competitive car, and will be seeded number 1 for this rally.

Sulayem has also in the past been strongly identified with Marlboro. This link is now broken, and he now rallies under Marlboro sponsorship.

Saeed Al Hajri

Saeed Al Hajri is one of the most experienced and gifted drivers currently rallying in the Middle East. He was the first Arab driver to gain points at World Championship level, and took an impressive 4th place in the 1986 World Championship Acropolis Rally.

The Qatari started rallying in 1978, and joined Rothmans in



Saeed Al Hajri

Qatar last month. He is seeded number 14, and is partnered by A. Wahid Abdul Haye.

Sultan Al Soweidi

Soweidi, also from Qatar, came third in last year's Kuwait International, driving a Toyota Celica. He has a good deal of international experience, but has had problems in a number of events, including the Qatar Rally last month. Here he was expected to drive the Toyota Celica Twincam Turbo Group B car which Sulayem was using for practice. However, this was rolled, and he had to return to his own Group 4 Celica — which he had been practising in. He and British navigator David Orricks were forced to withdraw on the first leg. He will be driving car number 10 for this event, the Celica Turbo, and is likely to bring a good result.

Jaber Al Marri

Jaber Al Marri is the fifth Qatari entrant, and will be driving the Toyota Celica which formerly belonged to Al Soweidi. He is a former B-seeded driver, and is known to be fast. His last participation in the Kuwait International Rally was in 1987, when his Audi Quattro was forced to retire on the first road section of the second day.

In Qatar last month he was driving the "Merch Special" — a hybrid cross between a Toyota Celica and a Sunbeam engine. He drove this car expertly and came home in fourth place. He will be driving car number 18.

Kuwait Entrants

Tareq Al Wazzan

Marlboro's Tareq Al Wazzan is one of Kuwait's most experienced and best known rally drivers. To date he is the only Kuwaiti driver to have taken wins in international events outside Kuwait. He won the Dubai International Rally in 1981 and the Jordan 4x4 Rally in December 1987. Wazzan was also the first Kuwaiti driver to compete in other Gulf events, and the first Gulf driver to travel outside the region to European events.

Wazzan is currently lying second in the National Championship, and collecting maximum points for this will be his main priority for this event. Wazzan is seeded number 8 for this event, and his Opel Manta 400 will be the first group B car to start this event.

Ottmar Lange

Lange is a former B-seed who has not driven in a rally since 1987. He has no points in the Championship, and so will be driving for a top finish. His Nissan 240RS should be one of the fastest cars, and he should be a man to watch.

Lange has a strong motorsports background, and previously had an impressive track record as a kart racer. He turned to rallying in 1984, and came second in the 1985 Kuwait International Rally.

At one stage Lange drove with Arab Times sponsorship, and we would like to welcome him back to the sport. He will be starting the rally behind Tareq Al Wazzan in car number 9, sponsored by International Optiques.

Ahmed Al Helal

Double Kuwait National champion Ahmed Al Helal will be the first Kuwaiti driver to leave the starting ramp, in his Group A Rothmans Toyota Corolla.

This experienced driver, who has also competed in international events including the Pharoahs Rally, needs to pick up points for the National Championship, if he is to remain a contender, and is likely to put a good finish as his main priority. Helal is an intelligent and experienced driver, and has been the Chairman of KTMSSD for the past eighteen months. His car will be number 3.

Ahmed Al Nasser

Ahmed Al Nasser is one of Kuwait's most enthusiastic rally drivers. Over the years he has rarely missed an event, and despite driving comparatively low powered cars, is usually a contender for a good finish.

Al Nasser has had a poor season, after taking a good international result last year. He now switches to a Group A Mitsubishi Starion, which will be the fifth car to start the rally.

Jeff McKasson

McKasson made his rally debut in the last local round, driving a Group A Mitsubishi Colt. Prior to this McKasson was



Tareq Al Wazzan

the chief scrutineer for the KTMSSD.

Although a novice, because of the FISA rules which state that Group A cars must start first, he will be driving with number 6 on his car. This is a disadvantage for him, as he will be starting immediately before Al Mousawi, who has already proved that he can keep pace with Sulayem and Al Hajri, and the powerful Group B cars driven by Al Wazzan and Lange.

Eid Falah

Eid Falah is leading the Kuwait National Championship, having driven his best season to date. He drives the Zayani Range Rover — one of the fastest and most reliable vehicles to have rallied in Kuwait, and now adds Craven A to his sponsors.

Falah's results outside Kuwait are not so good, but he has made a solid step forward this year and has proved himself to be a winner.

Several parts of the stages will suit 4wd, and he will also have the power to keep in touch with the fastest cars. He is always worth watching.

Falah's car will start number 19.

Ahmed Al Zafiri

Al Zafiri is the only Kuwaiti driver ever to have won the Kuwait International Rally. He is renowned as one of Kuwait's fastest drivers, but has had too many car problems over recent years. His last win was in January 1987, and he has completed only three events since then.

He is now driving under Winston/W.G. Towell sponsorship, and could well be very fast indeed. Like Lange, he will not be able to win the National Championship, and so will be driving to finish as high up as possible. He is seeded number 17.

Mohammed Al Hussein

Hussein is another fast driver who has experienced car problems. However he is back in his Toyota Celica for this event, and is always worth watching. He starts immediately in front of Ahmed Al Zafiri, at number 16, and will be chasing to catch Birami.

Dominique Bondi

Dominique Bondi is Kuwait's first lady rally driver for a number of years. She drives a Lada Niva with Lacoste sponsorship, and has done well in her first two rallies. This is her first international event, and she will be seeded number 29. Isabelle Sperandio is her co-driver for this event.

Ali Al Birami

Ali Al Birami will be driving the tiny Daihatsu Charade which twice won the Kuwait National Championship. Although not a winner, this car is very reliable, and Birami has notched up respectable results in it.

Birami himself is a highly experienced driver, and has entered a staggering 50 or so rallies over a thirteen year period. His car will bear the number 15.

Tareq Al Alyan

Alyan is seeded number 20 for this event, but is likely to finish higher. His Daihatsu Rocky is the loudest vehicle in the event, and his steady driving usually brings results. However if he is to hold any hope of fulfilling his aim of winning the Kuwait National Championship, he has to be among the first Kuwait entrants home. Alyan is a former Marlboro Desert Challenge Champion.



Lester Featherstonehaugh

Lester is one of the most popular drivers in Kuwait, mostly famous for driving a Volvo, and for not finishing. He came fifth in a local event however, despite having comparatively low power, and it is clear that good results are well within his grasp. In this rally he drives his new Lada and it will be interesting to see how he, and co-driver Edgar Speak perform. The pair are seeded number 27.

Ahmed Al Mulla

Ahmed Al Mulla is Kuwait's leading newcomer. Driving the Nissan 240RS in his first season he has consistently placed top five finishes. This will be his first international at the wheel of the Nissan, and we wish him luck. His start number is 11.

Co-drivers

No driver can do well without a good co-driver. It is impossible to profile all co-drivers, but here is some information about the leading co-drivers.

Ronan Morgan

Ronan Morgan has been rallying in the Gulf since 1986 and now partners Mohammed Bin Sulayem. He has had a great deal of experience over the years, and has also partnered Tony Pond, Mark Lovell, Russell Brooks and Billy Coleman. Before joining Sulayem, Morgan co-drove for Saeed Al Hajri.

Steve Bond

Bond, who navigates for Al Hajri is another experienced campaigner with a great deal of experience in European events. He joined Al Hajri in Qatar in 1988.

Khaled Khalifa

Khalifa partners Tareq Al Wazzan, and has also co-driven for Michel Saleh, Eid Falah and Ahmed Al Helal. Khalifa is under contract to Marlboro, and has wide international experience.



Mohammed Bin Sulayem

Fahad Al Rashed

Fahad Al Rashed co-drives for Ahmed Al Helal, and is the current Kuwait Navigators Champion.

Sadeq Ashkanani

Ashkanani is a former navigator's champion, and has partnered many of the best Arab drivers, notably Mohammed Bin Sulayem, and was with Al Zafiri when he took first place in the 1982 Kuwait International Rally. His current partner is Eid Falah, a relatively inexperienced driver, who benefits from Ashkanani's strong and broad experience. Falah has taken his best results with Ashkanani as his co-driver.



Mohammed Al Hussein

Co-drivers championship standings

CO-DRIVER	RND 1	RND 2	RND 3	RND 4	RND 5	RND 6	RND 7	TOTAL
Sadeq Ashkanani	2	16	24	19	24	4	24	= 113
Khaled Khalifa	19	4	2	24	2	24	19	= 94
Fahad Al Rashed	24	4	2	16	0	19	2	= 67

Driver's championship standings

DRIVER	RND 1	RND 2	RND 3	RND 4	RND 5	RND 6	RND 7	TOTAL
Eid Falah	2	16	24	19	24	4	24	= 113
Tareq Al Wazzan	19	4	2	24	2	24	19	= 94
Tareq Al Alyan	12	28	14	8	12	7	10	= 91
Ahmed Al Helal	24	4	2	16	19	19	2	= 86
Ali Al Birami	2	4	16	2	16	12	16	= 68

No.	Entrant	Driver	Co-Driver	Nat	Car	Group
1	Winston Toyota Team	Mohammed Bin Sulayem	Ronan Morgan	UAE/GB	Toyota Celica GT4	A
2	Rothmans Ford Team	Saeed Al Hajri	Steve Bond	QTR/QTR	Ford Sierra RS Cosworth	A
3		Ahmed Al Helal	Fahad Al Rashed	KWT/KWT	Toyota Corolla GT	A
4		Ron Oakley	David Newbury	UAE/UAE	Subaru RX Turbo	A
5		Ahmed Al Nasser	Bader Al Zaidi	KWT/KWT	Mitsubishi Starion Turbo	A
6	Mahdi Habib Est	Jeffrey McKasson	Steve Johnson	KWT/KWT	Mitsubishi Colt	A
7	Team Ralliat ME	Abbas Al Mousawi	Julian Raymond	QTR/QTR	Mitsubishi Galant VR4	N
8		Tareq Al Wazzan	Khaled Khalifa	KWT/KWT	Opel Manta 400	B
9		Ottmar Lange	Ulrich Angerer	KWT/KWT	Nissan 240RS	B
10		Sultan Al Soweidi	David Orr	QTR/QTR	Toyota Celica Turbo	B
11		Ahmed Al Mulla	Ibrahim Al Mousa	KWT/KWT	Nissan 240RS	B
12		Sameer Al Hussein	Mohammed Ali	KWT/KWT	Nissan 240RS	B
13		Saadoun Al Kawari	A. Wahid Al Haye	QTR/QTR	Opel Manta 400	B
14	Habib & Zayani Team	Ali Al Birami	Mohammed Al Zaid	KWT/KWT	Daihatsu Charade	S
15		Mohammed Al Hussein	Habib Makky	KWT/KWT	Toyota Celica	S
16	Winston W G Towell	Ahmed Al Zafiri	Ghazi Al Zafiri	KWT/KWT	Toyota Celica	S
17		Jaber Al Marri	Hamad Al Marri	QTR/QTR	Toyota Celica	S
18	Habib & Zayani Team	Eid Falah	Sadeq Ashkanani	KWT/KWT	Range Rover	S
19		Tareq Al Alyan	Khalil Ali	KWT/KWT	Daihatsu Rocky	S
20	Mahdi Habib Est	Younis Ali	Othman Hamder	KWT/KWT	Lada Saloon	S
21		Khamess Al Khamees	Abdulatif Al Ajran	KWT/KWT	Hyundai Pony	S
22	Mahdi Habib Est	Nasser Al Musallam	Mufied Ali	KWT/KWT	Datsun Silvia	S
23	Adel Al Marzouk Est	Abdullah Al Shuwaike	Mahmoud Bakch	KWT/KWT	Mitsubishi Starion	S
24		Ahmed Al Mousa	Ahmed Al Bagshi	KWT/KWT	Datsun Silvia	S
25		Saad Al Shammari	Ahmed Al Edreesi	KWT/KWT	Datsun 160J	S
26		Lester Featherstonehaugh	Kenneth Speak	KWT/KWT	Lada Saloon	S
27	Adel Al Marzouk Est	Adel Al Ghanem	Abdullah Hallak	KWT/KWT	Suzuki GTI 16V	S
28	Lacoste	Dominique Bondi	Isabelle Sperandio	KWT/KWT	Lada Niva	S
29		Mumtaz Shah	Margaret Callow	KWT/KWT	Mitsubishi Lancer Turbo	S
30		Hassan Karki	Doukhi Al Doukhi	KWT/KWT	Datsun Silvia	S
31		Abdulrazzaq Al Khamees	Fandi Al Rashidi	KWT/KWT	Toyota Celica	S
32		Adel Samara	Chassan Owejan	KWT/KWT	Toyota Celica	S
33		Hussein Karki	Adnan Abdulsalam	KWT/KWT	Toyota Celica	S
34		Saleh Al Ali	Saoud Al Mutairi	KWT/KWT	Toyota	S
35		Anwar Abu Jarwa	Salam Fawaz	KWT/KWT	Toyota Landcruiser	S
36		Walced Al Methen	Mohd Al Methen	KWT/KWT	Porsche 924	S
37		Amjad Qutteineh	Majdi Mousa	KWT/KWT	Toyota Celica	S
38		Andre Sourjian	Sarkis Sourjian	KWT/KWT	Toyota Corolla GT	S
39		Khalid Al Rayes	Abdulatif Al Omani	KWT/KWT	Datsun 200SX	S
40	Adel Al Marzouk Est	Wahby Al Roodan	Khazal A. Khazal	KWT/KWT	Toyota Celica	S
41						

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery
UNTIL March 19: Recent paintings by British water colour artist Patricia Mills will be shown at the Ghadir Gallery, Salhiya Complex, mezzanine, Gate 5, daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Sultan Gallery
AN exhibition of paintings by Bangladeshi artist Mounirul Islam is open at the gallery, Thunayan Al Ghanim Bldg., Al Soor St., daily except Friday from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 8 pm.

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday - Wednesday, 4.30 - 5.30 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT. - Thurs.: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT. - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic art, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT. - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

CINEMA

British Council
March 18/19 (6.30 pm): A feature film Brazil will be shown at the British Council. When Sam Lowry first sees Jill Layton he does not realise the complications she will bring into his life. A spoof on George Orwell's 1984, this film won the BAFTA Award. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

MUSIC

Children's Dance Recital
MARCH 21/22 (6 pm): Steps School of Ballet will present a children's dance recital in the theatre of the Kuwait English School, Salwa. Tickets, KD2, are available at KES from 5 to 7 pm on weekdays. Tel: 5629356 ext 55 (pm only) or 5616228.

Beat Concert
MARCH 31: Vishal Arts

Jukebox returns in May

THIRTY years of music, from 1950s to 1980s, will be featured in the musical Jukebox 5, which returns in May. Sounds Great producer/director Ken Winston, a well-known person in amateur theatre circles, said the show will be held on May 23, 24 and 25 at Salmiya Cinema.

Jukebox, which was performed from 1984-87, was cancelled last year. Now, Ken has decided to bring back the show. June Woolston and Phil Thomas, who have been involved with previous Jukebox productions, will be the musical directors. Nasch Hamid will choreograph the show.

Auditions for singers and dancers will be held at 7 pm March 18 and 22 at Sunshine School, Salwa. "Singers must bring music, if possible, and dancers are expected to come with their dance gear," said Ken. Thrice-weekly rehearsals will start shortly.

present a beat concert featuring Symphony and Perfect Strangers from 10 am at the Sharq Co-operative Hall. At 6 pm the group will present a variety show with Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi music and folk dances. For details call Anthony D'Souza or Arjun Gehi. Tel: 2631826 or 2663693.

THEATRE

Malayalam Drama
APRIL 7: Gayathi Arts will present their first Malayalam drama "Karutha Purnami" at Indian Arts Circle. Written by Chandra Mohan and directed by Nandan Iringalakuda. For entry passes call 5643126.

ACT
MARCH 27, 28, 29, 30 (8 pm): ACT presents Jean Giraudoux' comic fantasy "The Madwoman of Chaillot," directed by George Plautz, at Mousetrap Theatre, Jabriya. Reduced ticket price for opening night. For reservations call 5731782 (answerphone) or 5755391, 5-7 pm.

EXHIBITION

Far East Exhibition
TRADITIONAL rosewood furniture, silk and woolen carpets, decorative arts and handicrafts are on show at the exhibition at Kuwait International Hotel. Open throughout the day, until March 16.

Silk Painting Exhibition
MARCH 21-23 (5-9 pm): Ladies from the German-speaking cultural association will hold a silk painting exhibition at Kuwait International Hotel, Old Falaka room. Exhibits include Arab scenes,

art nouveau and other subjects as well as cushions, scarves, brooches and a small Easter bazaar. All are welcome.

SOCIAL

Get-together and musical
MARCH 16 (8 pm): A get-together with music and dinner will be held at Sheraton Hotel. "Bops till you Drop" music, from 1930s to 1980s, featuring Karl and Christine Anderson with the Top Ranks band. For invitations contact 4834938.

Easter Dance
MARCH 21, (8 pm): Jukebox Band will hold a pre-Easter dance at Messilah Beach Hotel. Those interested in attending please contact Phil Thomas on 5387998 after 5 pm.

Community Festival
MARCH 31: 4.30 pm. Thapasya, an Indian group, will hold a community festival featuring folk dances at Masela Family Beach. Entrance: 500 fils (adults); 250 fils (children).

Southerners get-together
MARCH 31: The Southerners will hold a get-together at Carlton Towers Hotel from 10 am to 4 pm. Next of Kin will provide musical entertainment. For details ring 2425705 or 4831484.

HOTELS

At the Pullman
ELYSEES Restaurant offers gourmet French meal: Al Shallal Coffee Shop features international and Arabic cuisine with live entertainment.

At Kuwait International
UNTIL March 16: Traditional English beefsteak buffet (lunch and dinner). Steak and kidney pie, roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, fish and chips, plus all trimmings.

At the SAS
BISTRETTO: A new Italian restaurant has been opened at the hotel. A selection of Italian dishes are offered in addition to international and local specialties prepared by chef Peter D. Zobrist.

Al Boom: the floating restaurant will offer a different speciality every two days as well as the Al Boom menu of charcoal grills.

Peacock Room: offers a wide variety of Chinese cuisine introduced by Chef Von Kwee Kiong.

The Clock Drive-In restaurant serves fast foods and daily specials.

SPORTS

Danish Darts Tournament
MARCH 17: Daniela invites all Danes to take part in a darts tournament. It will be held from 4 pm at Gazelle Club. Please register before March 8. Tel: Annette - 3723413; Ingrid - 3715637.

Fun Run
MARCH 17: 30 km fun run for teams at Messilah Beach Hotel. Commences at 10 am. Registration is strictly limited. For details call Hugh McAree - 5326368 or Jon Evans - 5339867.

Laser Sailing
MARCH 17: Messilah Beach Laser Club's spring series will be held. Briefing at 10 am. All are welcome. For details contact David Clark - 4845171 (W); 2425947 (H); or Philip Shepherd - 4841513 (W); 5314957 (H).

BA Speedbird Trophy
MARCH 24: The BA Speedbird Trophy cricket match between teams representing Britain and Pakistan will be held at the KOC New Ground, Ahmadi. Play will commence at 9.30 am. All are welcome.

Volleyball Tournament
MARCH 31: The Kuwait Malayalee Association will hold a volleyball tournament for Indians in connection with the Nehru Centenary celebrations. For details call Prem - 4675622 ext 293 (7 am - 3 pm). Last date for registration is March 15.



Vinod Khanna stars in Surya

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Nigo
Starring: Steve Segal
Al Salmiya
Three Men and a Baby
Starring: Tom Selleck, Steve Guttenberg
Al Hamra
Volunteers
Starring: Tom Hanks, John Kennedy
Drive-In
Al Khadimah (Arabic)

Al Firdous
Surya (Hindi)
Starring: Vinod Khanna, Bhanu Priya, Raj Kumar, Amrish Puri
Fahad Open-Air
Shankar Dada (Hindi)
Al Fahad
Abojmon (Bengali)
Al Jahra
Youn Mirr Youn Helu (Arabic)

Granada
Fireback
Sulabikhat
Alice
Al Jeeb
August 1 (Malayalam)
Ahmad Drive-In
Mo'arakah Al Naqib
Nadiya (Arabic)

FRIDAY
Al Jahra
Fleisch
Granada
Aankhen (Hindi)
Sulabikhat
Rat Boy

PRAYERS

Fajr 4.38 am
Zuhr 11.57
Asr 3.22 pm
Maghreb 5.58
Isha 7.14
FRIDAY
Fajr 4.35 am
Zuhr 11.56
Asr 3.23 pm
Maghreb 5.58
Isha 7.14

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Dabdood Al Musiqar: cartoon serial
9.45 Tum Tek and Children
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite
10.30 Variety Show
11.00 Safar Wahid: (One Journey) cultural film
11.35 A Time to Live: English feature film
1.00 News
1.05 World today via satellite
1.45 Songs and Music
2.30 Sports in a Week: a weekly programme focussing on local and world sports.
4.45 The Adventures of Neil: Cartoons
5.15 Liqa Al Khamis: presented by Jamil Hmoud
7.00 News Summary
7.05 From People's Art
7.30 Show Jumping: local equestrian events
8.30 With Islam: hosted and presented by Dr Khalid Al Madkur
9.00 News
10.00 Shabakat Al Telifizyon: TV window, presented by Abdul Rahman Al Najjar
10.30 Halat Tibis: Arabic film
12.15 Akhtarna Lakum: We Present...
1.15 News Summary
1.20 World today via satellite/ Holy Quran/Closedown

FRIDAY
9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoons
9.45 Children's Magazine followed by songs and music
10.15 Faez Al Tush: Arabic serial, starting: Ghanem Al Slati, Abdul Aziz Jassem.
11.00 Abadith Mauduwa
11.15 Friday prayer and Friday sermon
12.30 Awan
1.00 News
1.05 World today via satellite
1.35 Varieties
2.15 Hadith Deeni:

religious talk by Sheikh Mohammad Mutwalli
3.30 Cartoons
4.00 Hindi feature film
4.00 Kuwait in a Week
7.00 News Summary
7.45 The Family: presented by Fatima Rashid
8.45 Hadith Al Usbooh: with Sheikh Ali Al Jassar
9.00 News
10.00 Wrestling
10.45 Amsiya Al Juma: local show
11.30 News Summary
11.35 World today via satellite
12.00 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.10 Cartoons
4.25 A handball match between Kuwait and Qatar youth teams.
5.50 Cartoon serial.
6.30 Fairy Tale Theatre: "The Emperors New Clothes."
7.30 Face to Face: local talk show hosted by Ali Noor.
8.00 News in English
8.40 The Oldest Rookie: "Best Man", Starring: Paul Sorvino
9.40 Incredible Sunday

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Ghanim Pharmacy
ur. Carlton, Fahd Al Salem
Hilali St.
Al Ajeel Pharmacy
Palestine St., Mubarakiya
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Nasser
Tunis St.
Salmiya and Rumaithiya
Al Quds Pharmacy
Abdul Karim Maz'al Bldg., Amman St.
Fahadheel and Ahmadi
Adil Pharmacy
Awadhi Bldg., Dabbous St.
Jeeb Al Shiyookh
Al Ayoub Pharmacy
Shuwaikh Commercial Centre
Jahra
Al Khalid

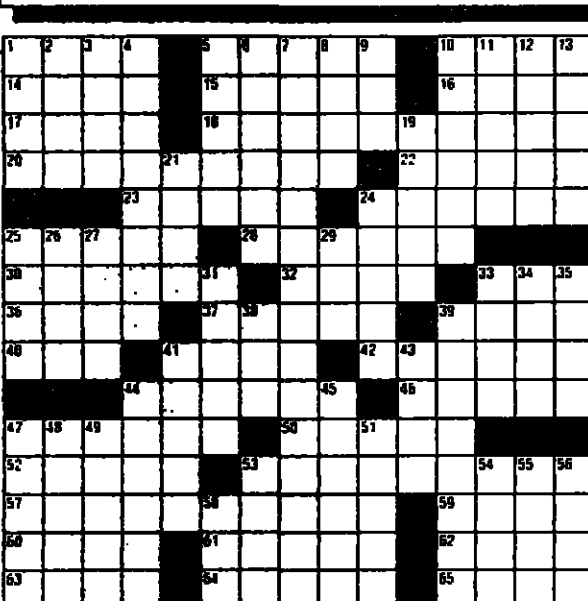
10.30 Late Night Movie: "The Highest Honour"
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown
FRIDAY
4.00 Holy Quran
4.10 The Sylvanian Family: new cartoon feature for children.
4.30 Italian Football
5.30 American Basketball
7.30 Star Trek: The New Generation: "Sym-biosis"
8.00 News in English
8.40 Breaking Away
8.55 Big League Soccer: Brian Moore introduces this sports show on English League games.
9.40 Weekend: local programme
10.00 The Charmings: comedy
10.30 The Challenge: episode 3. Rhode Island: training starts for contenders and defenders of the title.
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

Opp. Co-operative Society

FRIDAY
Kuwait
Al Shariya Pharmacy
Opp. Mawasalat Bldg., Hilali St.
Al Muntasar Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jabr St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Hawalli Pharmacy
Tunis St.
Salmiya and Rumaithiya
Al Rashed Pharmacy
Amman St.
Fahadheel and Ahmadi
Burgan Pharmacy
Souk Sabah, F'heel
Khatana
Al Wahda Pharmacy
Main St.
Jahra
Al Abraj Pharmacy
Do'bal Khizai St.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Happy beginning
5 Thrashes
10 Unwinning
14 Beautician's concern
15 Indian title
16 Word with weight or work
17 Field unit
18 On the fence
20 Delivery person
22 Cardinals or Orioles
23 Giver's opposite
24 Toughens
25 City on the Seine
28 Sea duck
30 Mavims
32 Fragrance
33 Rotating piece
36 Window unit
37 Crowbar
39 Garment for 15
40 Noah's masterpiece
41 Fonteyn's title
42 Occurrences
44 Ripan
45 Collect
47 California team
50 Aromatic seed
52 "Casablanca" actor
53 Attacker
57 Greased lightning
59 Polynesian wear
60 Shoshoneans
61 Bender
62 Equal
63 Soften
64 Glutted
65 Budget item

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

DRAMA SPIRIT HARP
RAVEL CODE IDOL
ATOLL UPON TOGA
WANDERLUST TREY
GILL ETHERS
TALKED ANDRE
ELAN GARE IRISH
SAVORED RIPOSTE
TRACE AMON ALAN
KARMA ELDERS
SCRAPE RARA
ARAB MARKET TRACKS
VETO OVER IRENE
EMEU TITI ABLETT
REIST EISE TOTIES

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
TAKING A BATH TO WIN

Neither vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 6 5 3
♥ A
♦ K J 9 5
♣ A J 10 8 3
WEST
♠ K Q 10 9
♥ Q J 8 5 2
♦ 7 4
♣ 7 6
EAST
♠ 8 7 2
♥ K 10 9 7 6 3
♦ 6 2
♣ K 4

SOUTH
♠ A J 4
♥ 4
♦ A Q 10 8 3
♣ Q 9 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

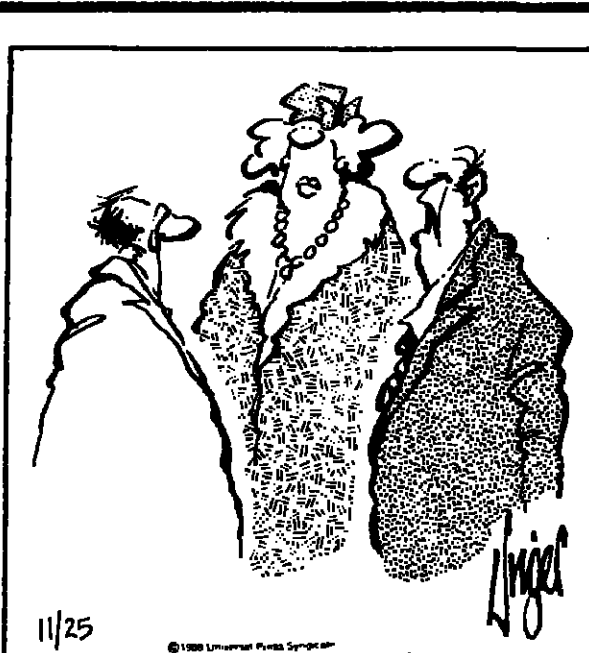
Opening lead: King of ♠
Timing is usually associated with physical sports. However, it is also vital in what the Dutch call "denksports,"—mind sports such as bridge and chess. Study this hand.
Minor suits are the orphans of the bridge world—in duplicate bridge, they are all but forgotten. Here, however, there is no doubt that five of either minor is a better contract than three no trump.

Against five diamonds, West led the top of his broken spade sequence. As long as East can be kept off lead until the club suit is set up, declarer is safe. But what if the club king is offside?

If the club finesse is going to win, the contract is declarer-proof. If it doesn't and declarer takes the opening spade lead, draws trumps and then takes the club finesse, he will go down as the cards lie. East will win the king and revert to spades, and the defenders can score two spade tricks for down one.

Declarer can correct the timing by allowing West to hold the first trick. This maneuver, known as the Bath Coup for the English resort where it was first utilized, forces West to shift his attack or else allow declarer to win two spade tricks.

Best is to shift to a club. The safest play for declarer is to rise with the ace (to finesse risks a club ruff), draw trumps in three rounds and then force out the king of clubs. Declarer wins the spade return with the ace and discards his remaining spade on dummy's long club. In all, declarer wins two major-suit aces, five diamond tricks and four clubs, losing only a trick in each black suit.



"On a scale of 1 to 10, she's a light heavyweight."

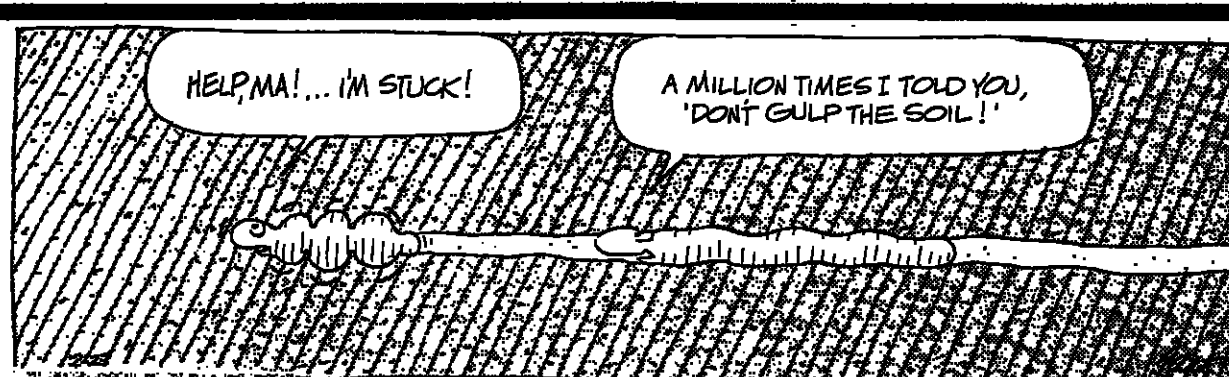
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)
You will tend to be rather angry with yourself and resentful of others. Make sure you do not do anything that would have a bad effect on your health. Avoid insisting on having the last word. Be sincere.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
You will be easily distracted and will require all the will power you can summon up. The prospects are good only you will have to work really hard. Make sure you do not say anything that could well give offence. Be cordial.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
You would do well to show a little more goodwill towards others. The news will not all be good but you will know how to make the most of the little there is.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
You are liable to act on impulse and if you do not succeed in restraining yourself the results could be embarrassing. The Moon's better influence will tend to help to raise your spirits.

Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)
You will have a lot to do but should get on with it not always think about what still remains to be done. Your lucky numbers are 46 and 1. You will be able to clear up some doubts.

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)
You should not lose the courage of your convictions. You should try to avoid becoming involved in a legal matter. Make sure you do not allow your affairs to get into a mud-dle. Be hopeful.

Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)
You will tend to lose your direction more easily so do not hesitate to ask the way. Something you are doing will not produce the results you had expected. There is still time to take corrective action. Be tactful.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
You should try to leave as little as possible undone. Do not omit needless details. The prospects are good only you must not be too optimistic. You will have something to be pleased about. Be generous.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Try also to see the funny side of things. You should make sure you get all the rest you need without being lazy. You should consider an offer or proposal most carefully. It is not what it seems. Be more resilient.

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)
The Moon's less favourable influence will tend to make you feel a little more gloomy. Do make sure you get all the exercise you need to maintain your muscle zone. And take care you do not put on weight. Be pertinent.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)
You will have plenty to do but it will also be interesting. You should not allow work to invade your private life. Mars' influence will help you to appreciate the good things in life. Be brief.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)
There will be some obstacles to your progress but they will be easier to overcome than first seemed. Your social life will be more intense and you should make sure you keep a little time for yourself.

مكتبة من الكتب

The New English School



.... for the first time

ON Tuesday March 14, The New English School held their Infant's Sports Day.

For the first time, the event was divided into KG and Infant 1 in the morning and Infant 2 and 3 in the afternoon.

About 800 parents attended throughout the day and all were able to enjoy a good view and relaxed atmosphere.

The sports day began with a Grand Parade, and the Junior Band gave excellent performances.

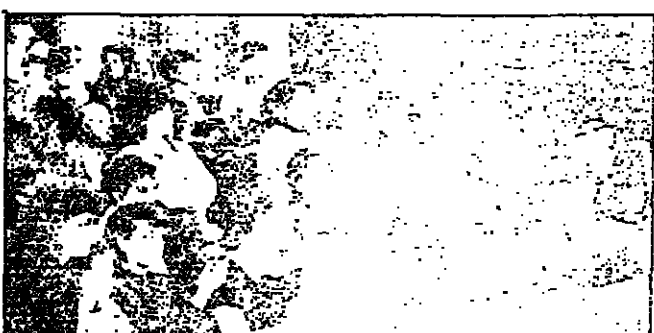
Spirits were high as the children participated in a greater number of events than ever before.



Parade



Satam Ahmed Al Jarallah



Junior Band



Parents

The American School Kuwait

ASK's infants enjoy sports

THIS week, the weather was just right for sports days. It was bright, but not sunny, with a gentle breeze and no humidity. The American School Kuwait was in luck. On Monday March 13th, Tuesday March 14th and Wednesday March 15th it held three sports days.

The first two sports days were held at the school premises, while the last took place at the Arabi club. I was lucky to be invited to all three!

Monday and Tuesday were dedicated to the kindergarten classes, and grades one and two respectively.

These classes were divided into four colour coded teams: red, yellow, blue and green. On Monday, the KG classes were further divided into two groups, a group to participate at 8:00am and another at 12:15pm.

The children arrived bright and early, very excited about the events.

They were not at all worried about losing and were looking forward to participating.

Each child was identified as being a member of a specific team by a shiny coloured band (of the same four colours) stuck onto his T-shirt. If a child was distracted and thereby lost track of where his team went, all he had to do was look for the pole which held the same coloured straw as his team.

Each team started off with a different race and rotated around the courtyard moving to the next race whenever the team finished. The winners were chosen with respect to the least average time the team took in all the races. That is, each team participated and was timed for each race. After completing all the races, the team with the minimum time score won first place.

The teams were given great support by teachers, parents, elder students and younger brothers and sisters. Students of the older classes acted as cheerleaders!

Basically, there were seven different races. Putting water into a bucket, running through a yard full of obstacles, throwing a ball into a loop, throwing small loops into a larger loop, running across the yard and back, sack race, and standing in a circle and throwing the ball to each individual in that circle.

The hectic pace of events concluded with a tug-of-war. For this, two teams had to unite to form a larger team, for instance, green and blue against red and yellow.

Apparently, this was a very popular game and the children continued to pull and pull when the "war" ended. This encouraged the teachers to join in and they set up a "teachers vs kindergartens" war, and guess who won? The little children!

I suppose after the teachers saw all the fun their students were having, they could not resist having some fun of their own. They had a wet-balloon toss. Some of the teachers got soaked to the skin!

The days ended with extremely tired youngsters waiting patiently for their parents to take them home. I'm sure all they wanted was a warm bath and a snug bed.



Where are your feet?



From the bucket!

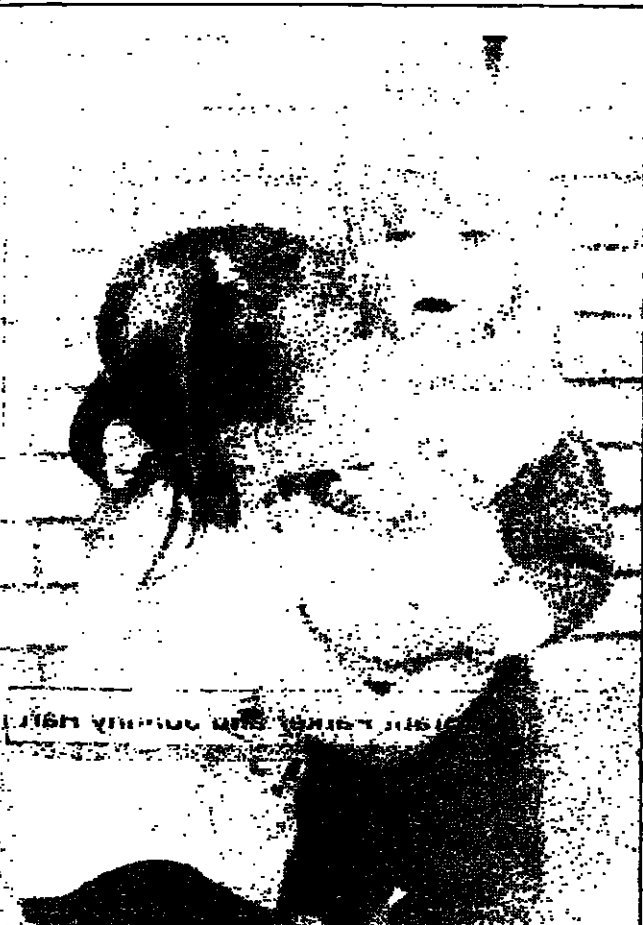
Apparently our Haute Cuisine wasn't Haute enough for some of our passengers.



When we found that children weren't impressed with the cuisine on our long haul flights, we decided to offer them fish fingers, burgers and chips instead. With the result that as far as they're concerned, we're back in the Good Food Guide. Please contact British Airways or your nearest travel agent to reserve a special Skyflyers meal when making a reservation.

For information and reservations contact your Travel Agent or British Airways in the Mishari & Al Khattash building, Fahad al Salam Street, Kuwait, Telephone: 2425635/6/7.

BRITISH AIRWAYS
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Sisterly support



Into the bucket



Get set...



Keep your head down



Fun, fun, fun



Waiting

We regret that we did not put in all the pictures we have taken, however, if any of you were expecting your picture to go down and it did not, keep in tune... there's always Tuesday!

Dear Junior readers,

AS some of you probably know by now, I have visited a number of schools to keep up with the various activities that are taking place.

I thank the respective schools for their co-operation and hospitality and am amazed at the great number of activities that are currently being undertaken. I hope all of you will contribute to the

JUNIOR TIMES describing the activities you are involved in at school. Tell your fellow readers about the great things you do!

Don't forget to put your name, school, scholastic year, photograph and your telephone number (so I can tell you when your work will be published). And watch out, your school may be the next to be attacked by the media.

Manal

جلال آباد پر قبضہ کے لیے مجاہدین کو تازہ محکمہ روانہ کر دی گئی

بازار افغان پناہ گزینوں کے قتل کی خبریں ملنے کے بعد امریکی فوجیوں نے قبضہ کرنے کے لیے تازہ محکمہ روانہ کیا



مزید سترہ ہزار افغان مہاجرین پاکستان میں داخل ہو گئے

لاہور۔ ۱۵ مارچ (پاکستان)۔ پاکستان میں داخل ہونے والے افغان مہاجرین کی تعداد ۱۷ لاکھ ۱۰ ہزار ہو گئی ہے۔ ان میں سے ۱۰ لاکھ ۵۰ ہزار مہاجرین نے پاکستان میں پناہ لی ہے۔ ان میں سے ۱۰ لاکھ ۵۰ ہزار مہاجرین نے پاکستان میں پناہ لی ہے۔ ان میں سے ۱۰ لاکھ ۵۰ ہزار مہاجرین نے پاکستان میں پناہ لی ہے۔

عرب ٹائمز

مشرق وسطیٰ میں شائع ہونے والا پہلا عربی اخبار

جمرات ۹، شعبان ۱۴۰۹ھ، ۱۶ مارچ ۱۹۸۹ء، جیفٹ ایڈیٹر احمد جبار اللہ

حکومت کا تختہ الٹنے کی سازش تیار کرنے اور دفاعی لڑچکرانے

کے الزام میں ۲۳ افراد کے خلاف مقدمہ چلانے کا فیصلہ

دہلی میں شائع ہونے والی عربی اخبار 'عرب ٹائمز' نے ایک رپورٹ میں کہا ہے کہ پاکستان میں ایک سازش تیار کی جا رہی ہے کہ حکومت کا تختہ الٹ دیا جائے اور ایک نئی حکومت بنائی جائے۔ اس سازش میں ۲۳ افراد کے خلاف مقدمہ چلانے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔

بھارتی پارلیمنٹ میں ہنگامہ آرائی پر اسپیکر نے اپوزیشن کے متعدد ارکان کو معطل کر دیا

راجیہ کے ممبروں کی بے جا باتوں کی وجہ سے پارلیمنٹ کا اجلاس منقطع کر دیا گیا

دہلی۔ ۱۵ مارچ (پاکستان)۔ بھارتی پارلیمنٹ میں ایک ہنگامہ آرائی ہوئی تھی۔ اسپیکر نے اپوزیشن کے متعدد ارکان کو معطل کر دیا تھا۔ اس کے بعد پارلیمنٹ کا اجلاس منقطع کر دیا گیا تھا۔

شامی فوجوں اور عیسائی فورسز میں جنگ چھڑنے کا خطرہ

شامی فوجوں اور عیسائی فورسز میں جنگ چھڑنے کا خطرہ

دمشق۔ ۱۵ مارچ (پاکستان)۔ شام میں ایک جنگ چھڑنے کا خطرہ ہے۔ شامی فوجوں اور عیسائی فورسز میں جنگ چھڑنے کا خطرہ ہے۔

برطانیہ کے شاہی خاندان کا ایک پات

برطانیہ کے شاہی خاندان کا ایک پات

لندن۔ ۱۵ مارچ (پاکستان)۔ برطانیہ کے شاہی خاندان کا ایک پات ہے۔ اس پات کے بارے میں کئی خبریں ہیں۔

شام لبنان کی تازہ خانہ جنگی میں فرق نہیں ہے، فاروق الشرع

شام لبنان کی تازہ خانہ جنگی میں فرق نہیں ہے، فاروق الشرع

دمشق۔ ۱۵ مارچ (پاکستان)۔ شام میں ایک جنگ چھڑنے کا خطرہ ہے۔ شامی فوجوں اور عیسائی فورسز میں جنگ چھڑنے کا خطرہ ہے۔

اسلامی کفر میں شیطانی آیات کی تفسیریں

اسلامی کفر میں شیطانی آیات کی تفسیریں

لاہور۔ ۱۵ مارچ (پاکستان)۔ اسلام میں شیطانی آیات کی تفسیریں ہیں۔ ان تفسیروں کے بارے میں کئی خبریں ہیں۔

بھارت کی غذائی اشیاء جلد کابل پہنچنا شروع ہو جائیں گی

بھارت کی غذائی اشیاء جلد کابل پہنچنا شروع ہو جائیں گی

کابل۔ ۱۵ مارچ (پاکستان)۔ بھارت کی غذائی اشیاء جلد کابل پہنچنا شروع ہو جائیں گی۔ اس کے بارے میں کئی خبریں ہیں۔

یونان کے وزیر کا استعفیٰ

یونان کے وزیر کا استعفیٰ

آٹینا۔ ۱۵ مارچ (پاکستان)۔ یونان کے وزیر کا استعفیٰ ہے۔ اس کے بارے میں کئی خبریں ہیں۔

امریکی فوجی آرمی کو سوویت یونین سے نکل جانے کا حکم

امریکی فوجی آرمی کو سوویت یونین سے نکل جانے کا حکم

واشنگٹن۔ ۱۵ مارچ (پاکستان)۔ امریکی فوجی آرمی کو سوویت یونین سے نکل جانے کا حکم ہے۔ اس کے بارے میں کئی خبریں ہیں۔

جاپان کا پاکستان کو ۳۹۰ ملین ڈالر کا قرض

جاپان کا پاکستان کو ۳۹۰ ملین ڈالر کا قرض

ٹوکیو۔ ۱۵ مارچ (پاکستان)۔ جاپان کا پاکستان کو ۳۹۰ ملین ڈالر کا قرض ہے۔ اس کے بارے میں کئی خبریں ہیں۔

مصری پریمریئر نے اسرائیلی کارکنوں کا احتجاج

مصری پریمریئر نے اسرائیلی کارکنوں کا احتجاج

قاہرہ۔ ۱۵ مارچ (پاکستان)۔ مصری پریمریئر نے اسرائیلی کارکنوں کا احتجاج کیا ہے۔ اس کے بارے میں کئی خبریں ہیں۔

بھارتی پاکستانی روپیہ کے ڈرافٹ

بھارتی پاکستانی روپیہ کے ڈرافٹ

نئی دہلی۔ ۱۵ مارچ (پاکستان)۔ بھارتی پاکستانی روپیہ کے ڈرافٹ ہیں۔ اس کے بارے میں کئی خبریں ہیں۔

امریکی دفاعی اخراجات میں ایک طرف کی طرف سے

امریکی دفاعی اخراجات میں ایک طرف کی طرف سے

واشنگٹن۔ ۱۵ مارچ (پاکستان)۔ امریکی دفاعی اخراجات میں ایک طرف کی طرف سے ہیں۔ اس کے بارے میں کئی خبریں ہیں۔

بھارتی یونین کی چال میں

بھارتی یونین کی چال میں

نئی دہلی۔ ۱۵ مارچ (پاکستان)۔ بھارتی یونین کی چال میں ہیں۔ اس کے بارے میں کئی خبریں ہیں۔

مصری پریمریئر نے اسرائیلی کارکنوں کا احتجاج

مصری پریمریئر نے اسرائیلی کارکنوں کا احتجاج

قاہرہ۔ ۱۵ مارچ (پاکستان)۔ مصری پریمریئر نے اسرائیلی کارکنوں کا احتجاج کیا ہے۔ اس کے بارے میں کئی خبریں ہیں۔

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بنک الكويت الوطني

بنک الكويت الوطني

بھارتی پاکستانی روپیہ کے ڈرافٹ

بھارتی پاکستانی روپیہ کے ڈرافٹ

Indians hit centuries

BASSETTERRE, St Kitts, March 15, (Reuters): Navjot Sidhu and Sanjay Manjrekar hit centuries to help India to 325 for four in the first innings on the opening day of their match against the West Indies Under-23 Cricket XI yesterday.

Manjrekar scored his first hundred for India in his first first-class innings for his country since he was hit above the eye by West Indian pacesman Winston Benjamin on his Test debut in New Delhi in November 1987 and forced to retire hurt.

Sidhu's 114 was the more aggressive, although in the morning he spent 78 minutes over 22.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Figure skating

PARIS, March 15, (AP): Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko of the Soviet Union waltzed their way into the lead of the ice dance event at the World Figure Skating Championships today.

The couple earned top marks of the compulsory section which counts for 20 per cent of the total score. The Westminister waltz and the Argentine tango were the two required dances this year.

Second went to another Soviet pair, Maia Usova and Aleksandr Zhulin.

In third were Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay representing France although they were raised in Canada.

Cycling race

OSIMO, Italy, March 15, (AP): France's Charlie Mottet won the sixth and next-to-last stage of the Tirreno-Adriatico cycling race yesterday, springing ahead of Swiss Toni Rominger in this central Italian town.

Rominger, finishing runner-up for the third time in as many days, retained the Blue Jersey of overall leader and widened his advantage over West German Rolf Golz while Mottet remained in third place in the general standings.

Cheltenham festival

CHELTHAM, England, March 15, (Reuters): Beech Road, a 50-1 outsider, pulled off one of jump racing's greatest surprises to win the champion hurdle yesterday, the opening day of the three-day Cheltenham festival.

NBA results

NEW YORK, March 15, (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday.

Suns	114	Hawks	112
Pistons	129	Pacers	117
Knicks	116	Supersonics	110
Nuggets	125	Hornets	102
T. Blazers	139	Warriors	110
Kings	95	Rockets	90

Sheraton bridge

RESULTS of Sheraton Bridge Club game held on Tuesday.

N/S

1. Mrs Mousalli & Tawil

2. Mr Sapre & Dr Saad

3. Shanti & Meouchi

E/W

1. Dr Sani & Latala

2. Carsten & Harris

3. G and R & Menon

Drivers busy with final adjustments

Kuwait car rally begins today

By Gail Seery
Arab Times staff

WITH Kuwait's 10th International Rally due to start this afternoon, the drivers have been busy making final adjustments to their cars, preparing their service schedules, and some are still practising the stages.

This rally is the first in quite some time in which the weather could prove a major factor. The rain has left some of the stages very wet indeed, and this will certainly favour the 4wd cars, driven by Mohammed Bin Sulayem, Abbas Al Mousawi, Eid Falah, Tareq Al Alyan and others. Traction has always been a major problem in Kuwait, and this year it is likely to be more of a

problem than ever.

A full rally supplement is contained inside this newspaper and explains all about the National Championships as well as the stages and how to get to them.

Abbas Al Mousawi of Qatar is driving a Mitsubishi Galant with 4wd and 4 wheel steering. This car broke down in Qatar last month, due to a problem with the gear lever, which has now been rectified.

"I can't say how well I will do in Kuwait, but I proved in Qatar that I could keep up with Saeed and Mohammed. I would like to win this rally, but we will have to see what happens. If I find that the times are close and I can do it, then I will go for a win. Otherwise

I will be driving to finish, and pick up points for Group N," he said.

"I haven't driven for two years and have had little time for practice," said Ottmar Lange, a former B-seed who came second in the 1985 Kuwait International Rally. "I have no points to worry about, so we'll wait and see. This is a very fast rally — 15 seconds could cost you a place. If I find our times are competitive, I will push for a win." Lange is sponsored by International Optique.

The rally sponsors are Mahdi Habib Establishment, Messilah Beach Hotel, and of course, the KT Club. Arab Times would like to wish every competitor good luck.

Wazzan clears formalities

WITH some 40 drivers preparing for this week's Kuwait International Rally, Marlboro's Tareq Al Wazzan has now tested his Opel Manta 400 rally car, and cleared scrutineering formalities on Tuesday with no problems.

"That means we're OK for the rally," said the driver who many regard as Kuwait's most experienced and gifted competitor.

"The weather has been appalling," says Wazzan. "It has changed the stages more than once. We don't usually get so much rain at this time of year."

"A lot of drivers are concentrating on trying to beat Saeed and Mohammed, because we think that maybe our cars can catch them this year," said Wazzan. "A lot of drivers are going to break their cars that way. I would remind the local competitors that this is a two day event, and that they should not try to push their car too much too soon."

The Opel Manta 400 is one of the more powerful and reliable Group B cars entered in the rally. Wazzan and co-driver will be the eighth team to start. This is a low seeding for the Marlboro team, who are rather more used to starting in first or second place. This is because of the new ruling from FISA which states that Group B cars must start behind Group A and N competitors. Thus, novice drivers will be starting in front of Wazzan.

French soccer

PARIS, March 15, (Reuters): Paris Saint-Germain beat Montpellier 3-2 in a French First Division soccer match yesterday.

English soccer results

LONDON, March 15, (Reuters): Results of British soccer matches played yesterday.

English Division One

Liverpool 5 Luton 0
(Postponed from Feb 11)

English Division Two

Hull 1 Leeds 2
Ipswich 3 Bournemouth 3
Oxford 3 Portsmouth 3

Sunderland 2 Man City 4
Postponed: Birmingham v Swindon,
Crystal Palace v Stoke, Plymouth v Barnsley and Watford v Watford — grounds waterlogged

Scottish Premier Division

Motherwell 1 Dundee 2
(Postponed from Feb 25)

Krickstein upset

Top seeds advance

INDIAN WELLS, Calif, March 15, (Reuters): Stefan Edberg easily despatched his opponent but Boris Becker lost his killer instinct for a while and struggled a bit before winning his second-round match in the \$702,000 Indian Wells Grand Prix tennis tournament yesterday.

Becker, the top-seeded West German, scored a 6-3 6-4 victory over unseeded South African left-hander, Danie Visser and Edberg of Sweden, seeded second, eliminated unseeded Horst Skoff of Austria 6-4 6-4.

Ninth seeded Aaron Krickstein was upset 5-7 7-6 (8-6) 7-6 (7-4) by unseeded fellow American, Pete Sampras, in a first-round match.

Meanwhile, in Boca Raton, Florida, top seeded Steffi Graf, second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and third-seeded Chris Evert of the United States all began their claim for the \$300,000 women's tennis tournament yesterday.

European Cup soccer

BUCHAREST, March 15, (Reuters): Steaua Bucharest winger Marius Lacatus scored three goals and set up two more to help his team crush IFK Goteborg of Sweden 5-1 in the return leg of the European Cup quarterfinals today.

The Romanian army team, winners of the trophy in 1986 and semifinalists last season, trailed 1-0 after the first leg in Sweden two weeks ago.

Lacatus scored the first two

goals within nine minutes of each other, the first in the seventh minute after the Swedes stalled, thinking he was offside.

Steaua Bucharest 5 (Marius Lacatus 6th, 18th and 65th, Ilie Dumitrescu 39th, Garvil Balint 89th), IFK Goteborg 1 (Lars Zetterlund 56th). Steaua Bucharest win on 5-2 aggregate.

In Munich, West Germany, Bayern Munich beat Hearts (Scotland) 2-0 (half-time 1-0) in a European Football Union (UEFA) Cup quarterfinal second leg tie yesterday.

Rothmans World Leader

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.



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Editor in Chief
Abdulla Al-Sayassah

Editorial Office:

Abdulla Al-Sayassah

P.O. Box 2220

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مكتبة الصحافة